

AGENDA  
LEBANON

LECTURES

**"Understanding how to read old Arab-Islamic papers and manuscripts"**  
Oriental Library, Beirut  
October 6, 7 p.m.  
+961 202421  
A lecture in French given by Jean-Louis Esteve

EXHIBITIONS

**"Weltfragen"**  
Weltfragen pour le Liban  
Beirut  
October 6, 7 p.m.  
+961 1 795174  
German artist Roland Kreuzer presents an installation featuring translations of Kant's famous questions dotted around and on walls of various streets in Beirut.

MUSIC

**Live Jazz and Blues**  
Bar Louie,  
Gouraud Street,  
Gemmayzeh, Beirut  
October 6, 9 p.m.  
+961 3 791998

EGYPT

MUSIC

**Raneen Arabic Music Ensemble**  
The River Hall, Al-Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo  
October 6, 10 p.m.  
+202 736 6178  
The Raneen Arabic Music Ensemble plays a number of Baligh Hamdi's compositions on this first of the Ramadan holy month's music evenings.

UNITED STATES

EXHIBITIONS

**"In/Visible"**  
my blood  
What makes you American  
Arab American National Museum, Michigan  
Until October 30  
+1313 6240229  
"In/Visible" presents contemporary artworks that shed light on the diversity of Arab American artists today.

# 'Married To Another Man' – a writer's search for Palestine

Ghada Karmi, talks about work, her plan for peace in the Middle East and her new book

Olivia Snaije  
Special To The Daily Star

PARIS: Among the wide variety of activists involved in the Palestinian cause, Ghada Karmi stands out, and often, alone. Independent, pathologically honest, she is small, with a mass of dark hair, the air of a stubborn little girl about her. A medical doctor, a well-known academic and a writer, Karmi is just finishing up an assignment in Ramallah that she began last summer as a consultant to the Palestinian Authority's Information Ministry on image building.

Of her stint working with the PA, Karmi says it has been "a desperately disappointing experience on the professional front," but as a writer, "the experience has been invaluable."

Karmi had gone to Ramallah via a United Nations Development Program for Diaspora Palestinians offering their expertise to compatriots in Palestine. She had hoped to set up a professional press office and training program for PA spokespersons. She was unable to put anything in place, however, because "there simply isn't the infrastructure or the culture for it."

Karmi may be deeply disappointed but she's used to fighting uphill battles. She spent years within a small organization in Britain attempting to promote understanding of the Palestinian cause only to realize "that it was simply not very effective."

She noticed, "the Jewish narrative of persecution and suffering had been conveyed through the medium of novels, poetry, films and theater. I could understand this. But why wasn't our story being told? So I thought I'd write the story of my life."

The fruit of her enterprise became an acclaimed autobiography "In Search of Fatima" written and published in English in 2002. Enthusiastically endorsed by Edward Said, Karmi's account of her childhood in pre-1948 Palestine and her subsequent years of exile in Britain and the constitution of her identity resonated with all readers, from a wide variety of backgrounds. When Karmi came to Paris several months ago to promote the French edition of her acclaimed autobiography, the Palestinian representative to France was there to introduce her. Quick to stress that politically, Karmi was completely autonomous, Leila

Shahid went on to say:

"I was bowled over by Ghada Karmi's personal narrative of her departure from Palestine. I found it more effective than many political essays."

Shahid added Karmi's discerning look at her background made her account all the more sincere. Not one to mince words, Karmi can be as critical of her own culture as she is of Zionism or the British. She also has a deadpan sense of humor which

**'It's not because Palestinians and Israelis love each other... it's the only practical solution'**

she uses when describing how her family settled in one of the most Jewish areas of London and that consequently most of her school friends were Jewish.

But the book was just one way for Karmi, who has been an activist since the 1970's, to educate people about Palestine.

"Although it's a cultural production, I wrote this book for political purposes," says Karmi. "I grew up in Britain at a time when not only was the Palestinian question unknown,

but there was also very strong Israeli propaganda which meant that the Palestinian narrative was obscured. My experience has shown me that it is very important for Palestinians to tell their story in a human, rather than political way."

During her professional life Karmi first practiced as a medical doctor, and is now a Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter in England. She is also the vice chair of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding. But she never strayed from what for her, is a basic issue – the right of return for Palestinians. She feels that most of the solutions offered to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are "temporary, political fixes that will break down."

When the Israelis evacuated Gaza this summer Karmi was certainly pleased for the Palestinians in Gaza. But she was extremely skeptical about the operation because she felt it would consolidate Israel's hold on the West Bank and that Sharon has now attained the position of "elder statesman. And why? Because he has vacated 1 percent of illegally occupied territory which should have been vacated decades ago?"

Karmi is finishing a book, which expands on an idea she has written and talked about for years. She believes the only solution to ending the conflict is a one-state, secular democracy.

"It's not because I think Palestinians and Israelis love each other, but because it's the only practical solution," she says briskly.

The title of the book, which will be published in 2006, is

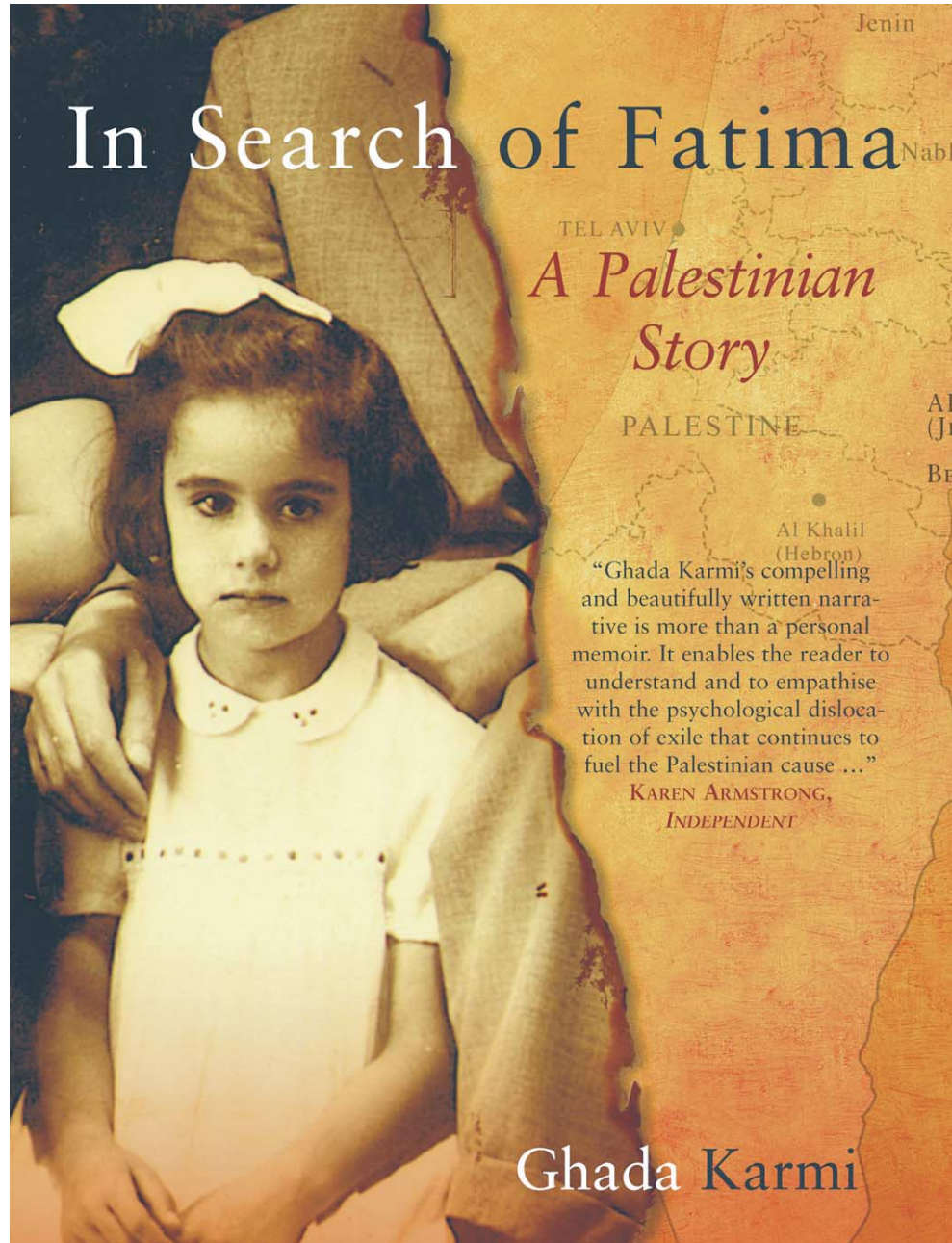
"Married To Another Man." It refers to a famous cable received by Theodor Herzl, founder of the modern political Zionist movement. In 1897, Herzl had sent two Austrian rabbis to Palestine to explore the possibility of founding a Jewish state there.

"The bride is beautiful," the rabbis cabled Herzl, "but she is married to another man." The other man was of course, the Palestinian people.

Karmi's book "is not a blueprint. I've tried to take the reader along and prove that nothing has worked nor can it work under the present conditions. We arrive at the solution together. In the modern world we must aspire to get away from the idea that one type of person must live in one place. The land must not be partitioned and Israelis and Palestinians should live together."

Arriving at Karmi's solution means dismantling Zionism, which to many, seems like an unrealistic approach. Karmi is perfectly aware of the monumental difficulties facing her solution. Citing the names of new Israeli historians such as Ilan Pappé and Avi Schlamim who stress the importance of re-writing Israeli history, she says: "Look. There's the Zionist parallel. It was once a wild dream. There were the Zionists sitting there talking about a Jewish state on someone else's land. My idea seems less crazy."

"In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story" is published by Verso Press in English and by Labor et Fides in French. "Married To Another Man" will be published next year.



"In Search of Fatima" was written, Karmi says, "for political purposes."



Karmi is a Palestinian activist of a different kind.

STAR SCENE



Hiyam Fouwaz, Jean-Paul de Boer, Ahmad Al-Qawari and Wajih Al-Bizri



Nawaf Al-Tamimi and Hanan Abdeli



Yolla Qodaih Layal Issa and Nahla Ouwad



Mona Azdoud, Amanda Abou Jaoude and Leila Ben Salah

## Qatar Tourism Authority hosts gala dinner in Beirut

BEIRUT: The Qatar Tourism Authority hosted a Qatari Night Gala Dinner last Friday at the Habtoor Grand Hotel in Beirut, packed with invitees from the press and local dignitaries.

Held as part of the celebrations for the Arab World Travel and Tourism Exchange 2005 (AWTEE), chairman of the Qatar Tourism Authority Akbar al-Baker congratulated all of the guests present and feted Qatar as a Middle East destination.

HOROSCOPE

- Aries (Mar. 21 – April 19)**  
Unexpected company dropping by or an appliance going bad could make for some hectic moments around the home. Your best results will come through business trips.
- Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**  
Curl up with a good book or go for a drive in the country. Put your plans into motion by presenting your intentions to those who should be able to give you financial support.
- Gemini (May 21 – June 21)**  
You will be full of good ideas, and your choice of activities may bring you enrichment far beyond your expectations. Social events will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends.
- Cancer (June 22 – July 22)**  
Think about your budget before booking a trip. Today is not the day to try to corner people by giving them ultimatums. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars.
- Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)**  
You're quite perceptive today and you'll have good insights into what makes others tick. Talk to peers who you trust in order to get sound advice. Don't say something you might regret later.
- Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)**  
Try not to get involved in other people's problems. Don't forget to let your mate know how much you care. Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves.
- Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)**  
Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident today. Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. Mingle with new people.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)**  
The home environment will be unpredictable today. Try to go out instead. Your colorful conversation may attract new mates. Singles may discover a delightful romantic opportunity.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)**  
Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly. Don't try to hide your true feelings from your mate.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)**  
Update and review your personal investments. Empty promises could be likely where work is concerned. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)**  
Today is a lucky day for you financially. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects today.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20)**  
Your dramatic nature may be too much for your romantic partner to handle. There will be difficulties if you spend too much money now. Your talents will really shine at work.

Just a thought

In order that all men might be taught to speak truth, it is necessary that all likewise should learn to hear it.  
Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84), English author

su|do|ku

Sudoku is neither a mathematical nor arithmetical puzzle. It is a logic puzzle. Each sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into 9 smaller grids of 3x3 squares.

To solve the puzzle, fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9. In each row, column and box the numbers 1-9 can only appear once.

To make a start, look at each of the boxes and see which squares are empty, at the same time checking that square's column and row for a missing number. Every sudoku has a logical and unique solution.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

9	6	5	8	3	4	1	2	7
4	1	2	6	9	7	8	3	5
7	8	3	2	1	5	4	6	9
2	3	6	5	8	9	7	1	4
1	9	4	7	6	2	3	5	8
5	7	8	1	4	3	6	9	2
6	5	7	4	2	1	9	8	3
8	4	9	3	5	6	2	7	1
3	2	1	9	7	8	5	4	6

9	4	3	2	5				
			4	6	8	7		
	3	8			2			
7		3	6	5				1
2								9
8				9	3	6		5
		2				5	1	
1		9	5	3				
	6		1		7		4	8

## Egypt's Culture Ministry plagued by bickering

Ramsay Short  
Daily Star staff

BEIRUT: Fires, damaged statues and bickering – it has not been a good few weeks for the Egyptian Culture Ministry.

First, Culture Minister Farouk Hosni resigned over a fire that broke out in the Beni Sweif Cultural Palace south of Cairo in September in which 30 people died and for which the ministry was widely held responsible.

Hosni, a painter by profession, had his resignation rescinded by President Hosni Mubarak three days after he tendered it, responding to the pleas of some 400 high-profile intellectuals for him to stay.

"Despite conceding the ministry's accountability, I had the most to lose in such a disaster," Hosni later said. "But I realized the charges were directed against me personally, even before investigations began. Feeling I had embarrassed the regime, I decided to bear the political responsibility myself."

Now Hosni is arguing with Antiquities Chief Zahi Hawas over reports about mysterious damage to a Pharaonic statue during restoration work at the Egyptian Museum.

On Tuesday he ordered a probe into the reports, asking Attorney General Maher Abdel-Wahid to investigate the matter only hours after the country's top antiquities official dismissed the reports as being unfounded. The Egyptian press, quoting museum officials, had reported that a statue of Khafre (2576-2551 BC), the fourth dynasty king and builder of the second pyramid at Giza, had been found damaged in the basement.

**'This statue is in good condition and was never damaged'**

Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Hawas, however, refuted the claims the Agence France Presse reported, saying they were "untrue." He said the statue the press described was small and bore no inscriptions to suggest that it was of Khafre.

"This statue is in good condition and was never damaged since its discovery in 1988 west of the pyramid of King Khafre and transferred to the Egyptian Museum," the statement said. But Hosni insisted that he

was determined to find the officials responsible for wrecking the treasure, ignoring his subordinate's denials.

On top of this latest uproar, numerous artifacts have been vanishing from museums and archaeological sites around the country, leading to accusations that Egypt is not doing enough to protect its rich history or ensure safety standards at entertainment venues. Instead the Culture Ministry officials are arguing among themselves.

A few weeks ago, officials announced the disappearance of three artifacts from the Egyptian Museum basement, which houses thousands of priceless treasures from different periods.

Many other artifacts have also vanished from high-security sites around the country, some of them eventually traced to international antiquities dealers.

On a positive note, in early August a Cairo court sentenced seven Egyptians to jail terms of up to 55 years in the biggest antiquities smuggling case in the country's history.

The prosecutions followed the seizure of a cache of more than 600 artifacts from the time of the Pharaohs at London's Heathrow airport.

Meanwhile, the Greco-Roman museum in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria has been closed and will remain so for two years to allow restoration work to proceed, the Supreme Council of Antiquities announced. Hosni said the work will include restoration of the museum building and its library. The museum's showcases are to be improved to ensure better display of the artifacts.

The Greco-Roman museum houses a large number of Egypt's antiquities from the period roughly falling between 300 BC and the Arab conquest in the seventh century. – With agencies



Hosni is involved in a dispute over a damaged statue.