

For Immediate Release



## Upcoming events at AUB- Nov. 8-15

Beirut, Lebanon- 08/11/2013 - The American University of Beirut is organizing the following events over the next days:

- **Book Launch: “Looking for Palestine”**

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) is organizing the Beirut launch of the book, *Looking for Palestine*, by Najla Said, on November 12, 2013 in West Hall, Bathish, from 6pm to 8pm. This event is co-sponsored with The Department of English

The daughter of prominent Palestinian-American intellectual Edward Said, and a sophisticated Lebanese mother, Najla Said grew up in New York City, confused and conflicted about her cultural identity, torn between her WASP milieu and her family roots. As she grew older, her worldview shifted. Today, she has become an important voice for second-generation Arab Americans nationwide.

Najla Said is an actress and writer. Her solo show, *Palestine*, ran Off-Broadway for eight sold-out weeks in 2010. She has worked onstage in other plays regionally, internationally and all over New York, and in film and television. Najla trained at The Actor's Center and The Public Theatre. She is a graduate of Princeton University, In 2010 she was named one of the "Top Forty Feminists Under Forty" by The Feminist Press. Her memoir (based on her solo play) "Looking For Palestine: Growing Up Confused in an Arab-American family" was released by Riverhead books in August of 2013.

- **Lecture on the profit made from wars by contractors**

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) is holding a lecture on November 13, 2013 entitled “The U.S. War of Terror: How Contractors Profit from Interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Eavesdropping on Facebook and Google,” by Pratap Chatterjee, executive director of CorpWatch in California, a non-profit group that conducts investigative research and journalism to expose corporate malfeasance and advocate transparency and

The lecture will take place at 6pm in Building 37, Conference A.

Pratap Chatterjee has spent the last 12 years tracking the contractors who have made billions out of the Global War of Terror by selling a dizzying array of products and services to the U.S. government - from Hellfire missiles to be fired on tribals in Waziristan to cooking food for U.S. soldiers in Iraq. His latest work has exposed the contractors hired to track citizens via social media for the CIA, FBI and the NSA.

Pratap Chatterjee has authored two books on the War of Terror - *Iraq, Inc.: A Profitable Occupation*; and *Halliburton's Army: How a Well-Connected Texas Oil Company Revolutionized*

the Way America Makes War. Pratap is a member of the board of directors of Amnesty International USA and Corporate Europe Observatory.

- **Lecture on human rights implications of two Guantanamo cases**

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR) is organizing a lecture entitled, "Classified Memories: Trying To Try Terror Suspects Who Were Tortured by the CIA," by Lisa Hajjar is professor of sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The lecture will be held on November 15, 2013, at 1pm, in College Hall, Auditorium B1.

This event is co-sponsored with IFI.

Two high-profile cases being prosecuted in the military commissions at Guantanamo raise exceptionally challenging problems for the US government and the civilian and military lawyers defending the suspects, involving a total of six men who were held for years in CIA black sites and subjected to the harshest interrogation tactics authorized by the Bush administration. One of the most confounding issues in these trials is whether the government can classify the defendants' own memories of their treatment at the hands of the CIA. Probing into this issue as it is playing out in the commissions is a means of analyzing the relationship and contradictions among three larger issues - torture, secrecy, and governmental unaccountability and the looming question of what "justice" can mean under these circumstances.

Lisa Hajjar was a visiting professor at AUB's Center for American Studies and Research in 2012 - 2013, and she serves as a principal investigator on an AUB - Lund University research project on human rights in the Arab World. Hajjar's research and writing focus on law and legality, war and conflict, human rights, and torture. She is currently working on a book about anti-torture lawyering during the US war on terror?

- **Lecture in Arabic on Fayrouz**

The University for Seniors is organizing a lecture in Arabic about Fayrouz by Elias Sahhab. Elias holds a BA in Oriental studies and political sciences from USJ, Beirut. He has been working in journalism since 1961 in daily and weekly journals in Lebanon, Egypt and the Gulf countries. He's a specialist in music critique and has published books about music in 1980, 2003 and 2009. The public lecture will take place on Friday November 15 from 5:30 to 7:00pm in College Hall, B1.

- **Cello and piano concert to mark "Day of the King of the Belgians"**

On the occasion of the "Day of the King of the Belgians," the Embassy of Belgium, in coordination with AUB, is presenting a concert by Nicolas Deletaille (Cello) and Jean-Michel Dayez (Piano), on November 15, 2013, at 7:30pm, in Assembly Hall. Free entry.

The program includes compositions by Richard Strauss; Gabriel Fauré; and César Franck. The three works proposed were composed between 1880 and 1886 and reflect an unusual generosity. Indeed, Strauss, Fauré and Franck have in common a deep longing characterized by harmony and formality, as well as an ability to write beautiful melodies that compete in simplicity and intensity.

The freshness and youth of the Strauss sonata, the majesty of the Fauré's elegy and the happiness imbedded in the Frank's sonata will make up the evening's program.

ENDS

**For more information please contact:**

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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