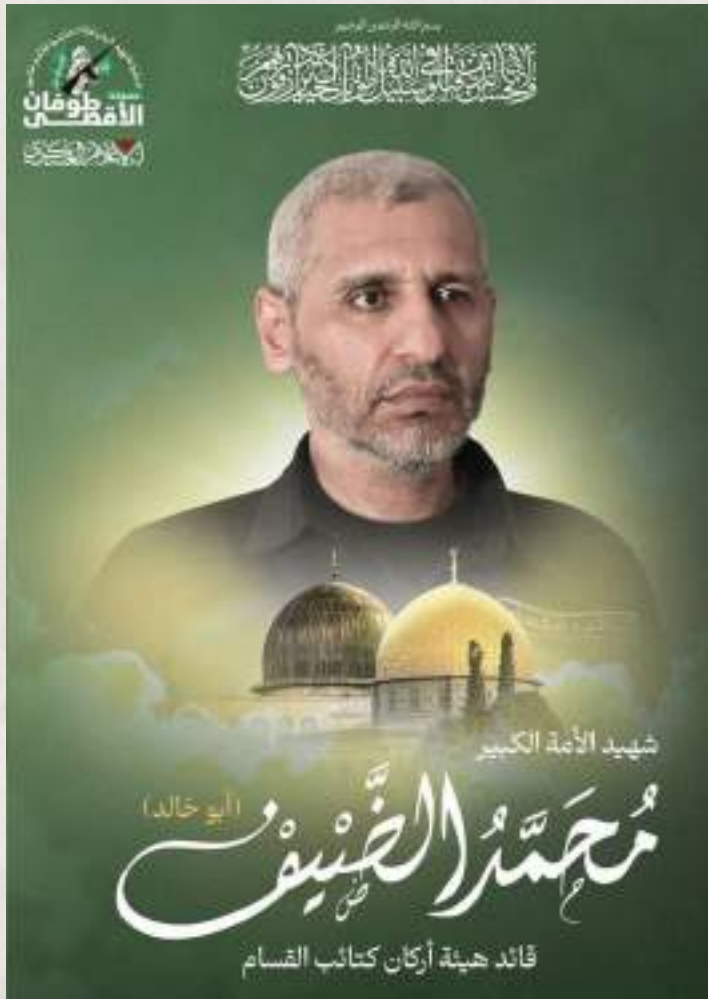


Solidarity Screenings Glasgow  
22/03/2025

# WORKERS OF THE SHAM







**SOLIDARITY SCREENINGS**

SCREENINGS

RESOURCES

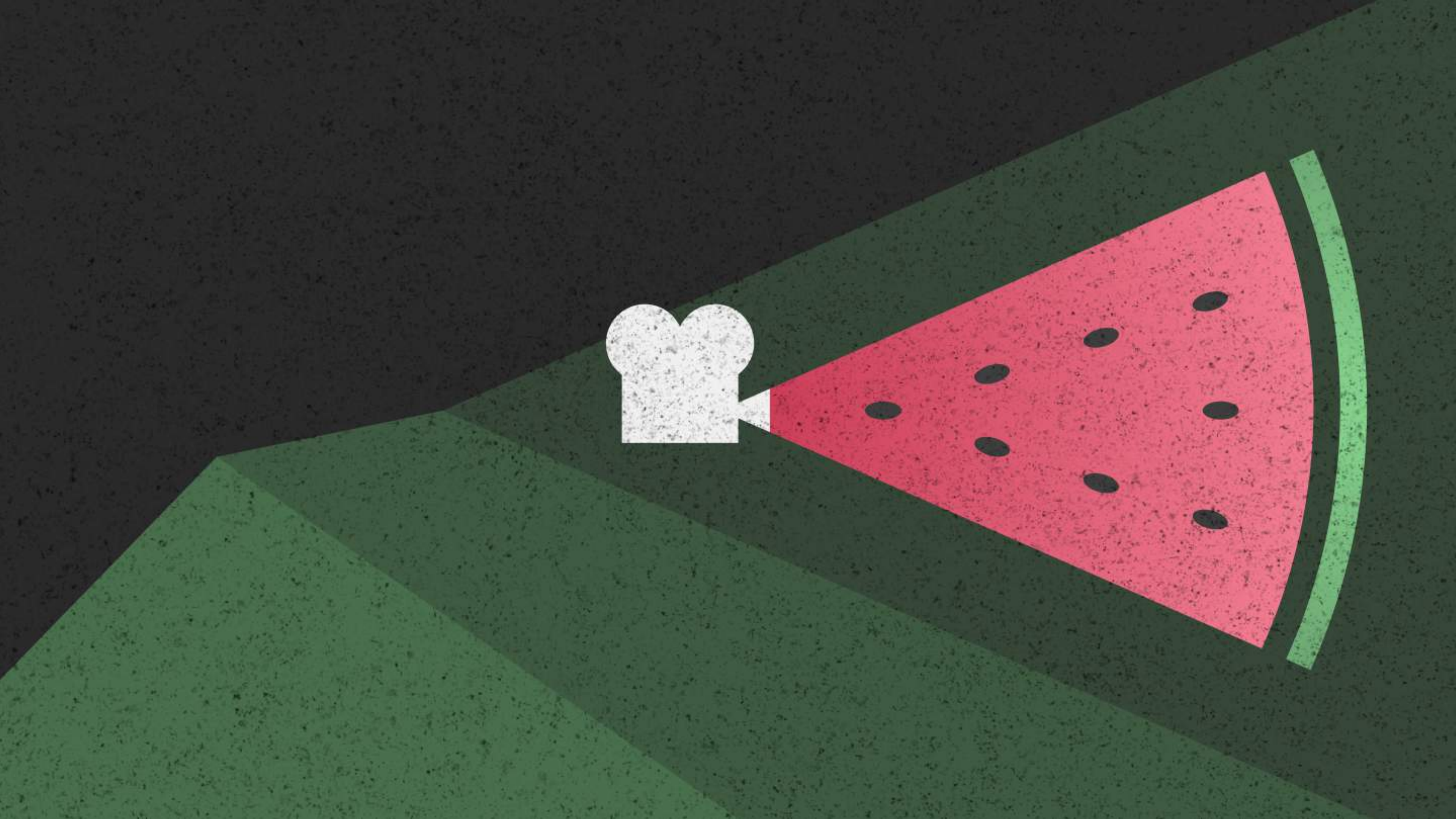
MANIFESTO

# Solidarity Screenings Glasgow

Film screening initiative based in Glasgow; showcasing revolutionary cinema that  
moves us towards liberation

**COME TO A SCREENING**









Bilad Al Sham: Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon & Palestine



# LABOUR RIGHTS IN LEVANTINE CINEMA

Today and Every Day (Oussama Mohammad, 1986)







## Constitution

### THE BAATH ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BAATH ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY APPROVED BY THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE PARTY IN 1947

#### Art 41- The Culture of the Society:

**Item One:** The party shall work on establishing a general, national, Arab, free, progressive, comprehensive and profound culture that has human aims. This culture will be generalized among all classes of the people.

**Item Tow:** The State is responsible for the maintenance of the freedom of speech, publication, assembly, protest and press, within the limits of the supreme Arab national interest, and offering all means and capabilities that fulfill this freedom.

**Item Three:** The Intellectual Work is one of the holiest works, and the State has to protect and encourage the intellectuals and the scientists.

**Item Four:** Giving way - within the boundaries of the Arab National Conception- for the establishment of clubs, societies, parties, youth organizations, establishments of tourism and the utilization of cinema, broadcasting, television and all means of moden civilization on the generalization of the National Education and entertainment of the people.

#### Art. 42- The elimination of class discrimination and distinction:

Class discrimination is the outcome of a corrupt social situation. Therefore, the Party will always struggle for the oppressed toiling classes of the society until such discrimination and distinction disappear and all citizens can restore completely their human value and can be given a life under a social fair system where no citizen has any priority over another, except of his intellectual and dexterous capacity.



# NATIONALISATION OF SYRIAN CINEMA



- **Directive 258 (1963) creates a comprehensive non-profit-oriented nationalised cinema for Syria**
- **Filmmakers are sent overseas (for free) to train, mainly to the USSR**
- **Filmworkers become public sector workers, with constant, long-term salaries, pensions etc.**

**Our Hands (Abdullatif Abdulhamid, 1985)**





# FILM ESSAY ON THE EUPHRATES DAM

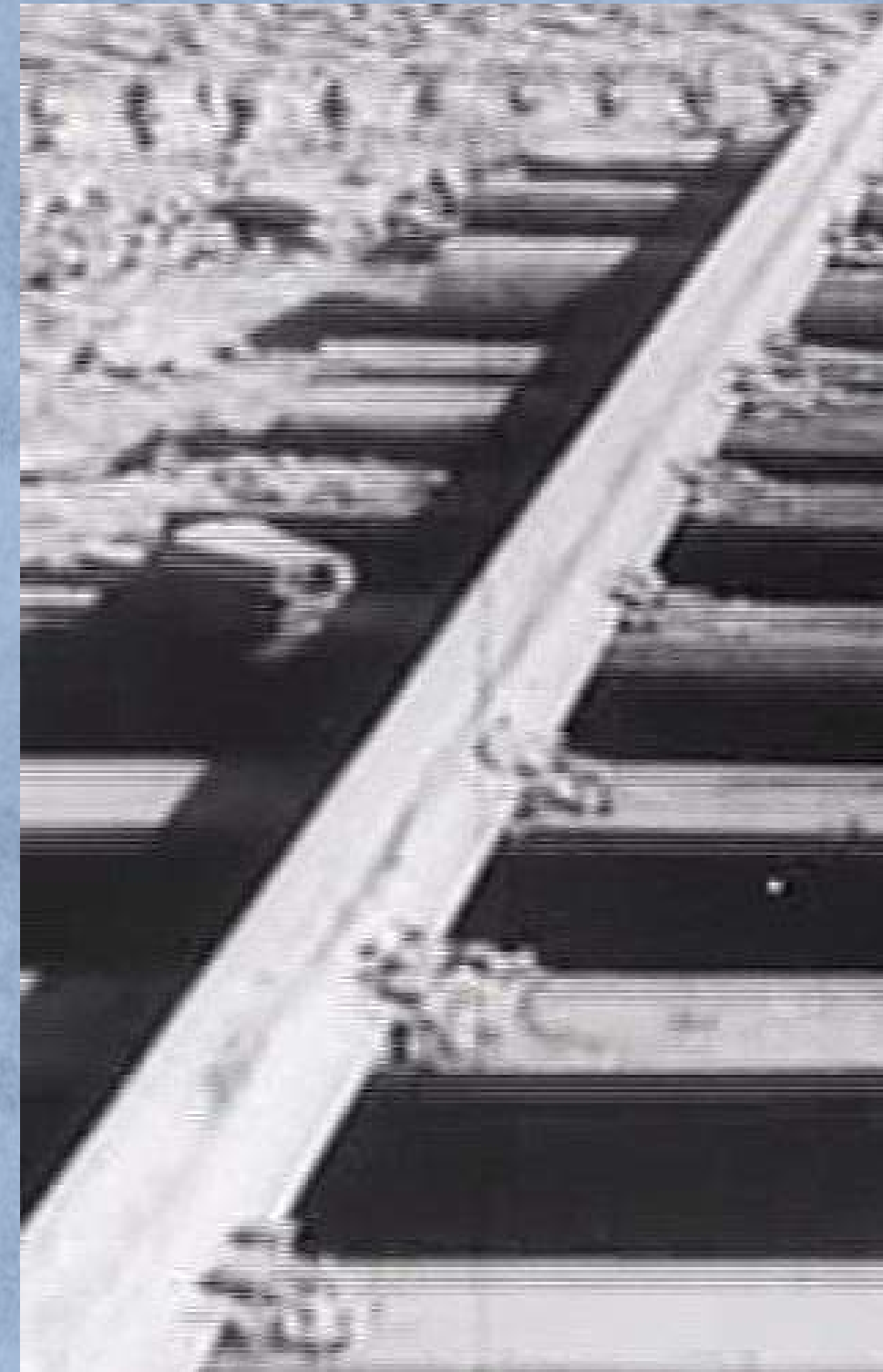
فيلم محاولة عن سد الفرات  
Directed by Omar Amiralay  
Syria, 1970  
13 min

Omar Amiralay's first film depicts the construction of the Tabqa Dam on the river Euphrates as part of the unofficial 'Dam Trilogy'.

It is heavily inspired by Socialist Realism, with particular inspiration from Soviet filmmaker Dziga Vertov.

*"A wholesale celebration of the life-changing potential of the state's early modernisation and development projects."* (R. Shariah Taleghani)

The film has a love for the filmed Bedouin workers - showcasing their connection to the land co-existing harmoniously with the development of industry. Industry and land become two sides of the same coin, with industry bringing prosperity to the villages whilst traditional life forever changes.



Content Note: A brief clip of an animal skull.



A man with grey hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is looking directly at the camera. His hands are clasped together in front of his face, with his fingers interlaced. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

# A FEELING GREATER THAN LOVE

شعور أكبر من الحب

Directed by Mary Jirmanus Saba

Lebanon, 2017

99 min



# A FEELING GREATER THAN LOVE

**In her debut, Mary Jirmanus Saba deals with a forgotten revolution, saving from oblivion bloodily suppressed strikes:**

- 1. the November 1972 Gandour chocolate factory strike**
- 2. the January 1973 tobacco peasant uprising in South Lebanon**

**These events held the promise of a popular revolution and women's emancipation but were erased from collective memory by the outbreak of a fifteen-year civil war. Rich in archival footage from Lebanon's militant cinema tradition, the film reconstructs the spirit of that revolt, asking of the past how we might transform the present.**



**Content Notes:**

The film covers themes of colonialism, Zionist occupation and war. Conversations deal with repression against strikes and protests. There are mentions of death due to cop aggression.

Archival footage briefly depicts cop aggression and the sound of gunshots.



# INSTITUTIONAL SECTARIANISM IN LEBANON

**Confessionalism, a fundamentally and purposefully sectarian system, was passed on from the French Mandate. It is used to maintain the position of the feudal and capitalist classes to the benefit of international imperialism.**

**The political system is based on a census from 1932 from when Maronite christians were the majority of the population. The Lebanese state refuses to take a new census!**

**Sects have been a general indicator of class:**

- **Financial class mainly Maronites**
- **Peasants mainly Shia (85%)**

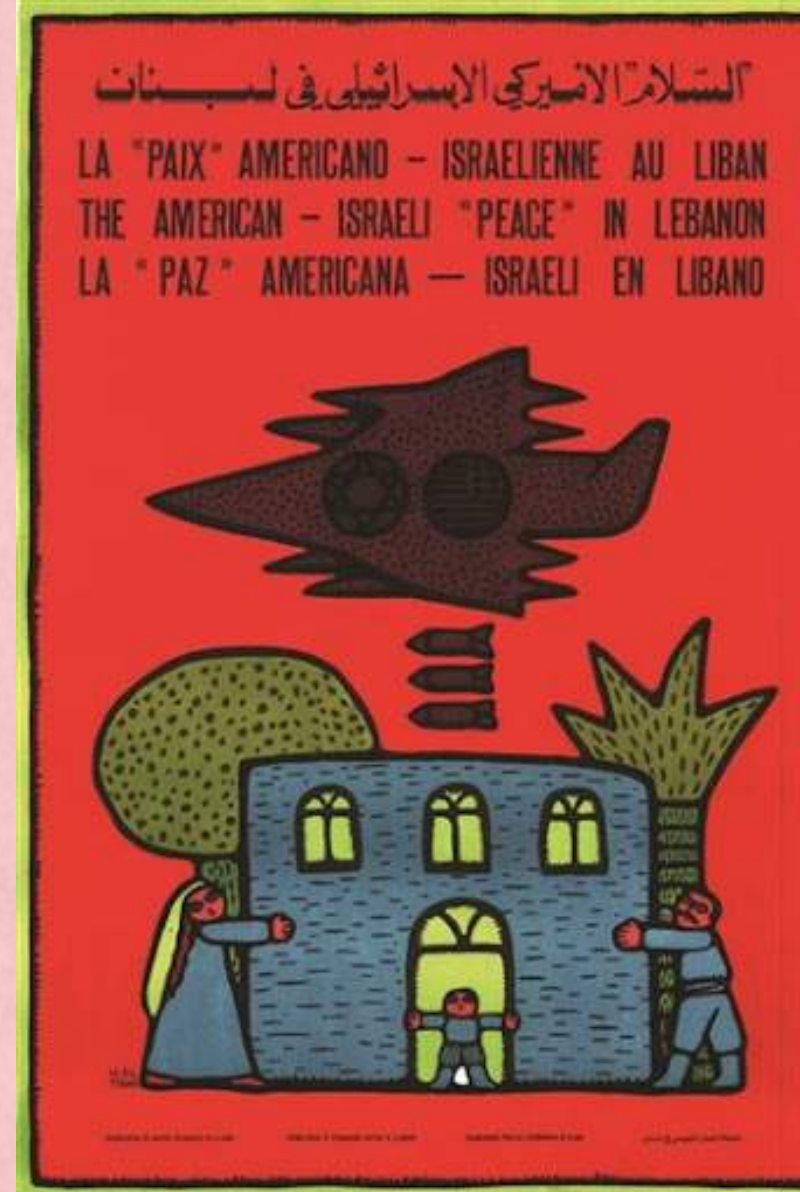
## **Quick Stats**

- **Shia standard of living five times lower than those in Beirut in the 1950s**
- **By 1970s, 50% of Shias were unschooled compared to national average of 30%**
- **Half of the villages in Jabal Amil (in South Lebanon) lacked running water**
- **Jabal Amil had 3 clinics**





# PEASANT POWER



## LCP

- Anti-sectarian party with main base among Shia workers and peasants
- Established al-Haras al-Shabi (the Popular Guard) in active support of the Palestinian resistance - took direct offensive and defensive military action against the Zionists
- Agricultural reform in South Lebanon and active involvement in defending Shia villages from Zionist bombardment



Leading groups that organised the South Lebanese peasant class:

- The Lebanese Communist Party (LCP)
- The Organisation for Communist Action in Lebanon (OCA-L)
- Amal Movement
- Hizbullah



# THE GANDOUR STRIKE 1972

**Strikes were held in factory branches (1,500+ workers).**

**Workers utilised tactics such as touring marches in Beirut.**

**Gandour increased wages by 5% from 185 Liras to 205 Liras.**

**The strike lasted until 11th November 1972 when it was violently dispersed by police who used tear gas, batons, and live bullets.**

**Resulted in injuries and the martyrdom of two workers: Yusif al-Attar and Fatimah al-Khawajeh.**







Singer Megastar Oum Kalthoum  
"Patience Has Its Limits"

Actor-Singer Soad Hosni:  
"A Girl is Like a Boy"

Movie Star Fatin Hamama:  
"Egypt Lived Free"  
from The Open Door (Henri  
Barakat, 1963)

Egyptian Revolution 1952 ↔ Egyptian Revolution 2011

# REVOLUTIONARY RE/CITATION



# THE PALESTINE FILM ARCHIVE



via Dolorosa (Oraib Toukan, 2021)





## Essay on the Euphrates Dam



# GUIDING Q'S

- The feature asks us to learn from the past. How can we discover these lessons? How do we apply them to our current political organising?
- *Essay On The Euphrates* upholds the socialist dream of industrialisation as an expression of worker power. Comparing this to *A Feeling Greater Than Love*, how is worker power expressed differently?
- In our interview with Mary, she used the term “freedom as a daily practice”. How do we connect our everyday life to our political goals?



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