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**LBIYOU**  
Lebanon I owe You

[lbiou.org](http://lbiou.org)

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**Expose:** Uncover Corruption - Unmask The Corrupt

**Engage:** Demand Accountability - Recover Stolen Money

**Promote:** Initiate Actionable Solutions - Push For Innovative Changes

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# ABOUT LBIOU



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**OUR MISSION**

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LBIOU is an independent, not-for-profit center of competence that was created to track, recover, and bring back Lebanon’s stolen public money and assets from all over the world.

Alongside international legal actions, LBIOU has founded a think tank that aims at challenging Lebanon’s current judicial system patterns and pushing for innovative change to address and redress this matter

of vital importance to Lebanon.

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## THE BACKGROUND

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Bribery, corruption, nepotism and other malfeasances have huge ramifications on any entity and organization leading most of the time to ineffectiveness and even to systemic failure because of the absence of controls and accountability.

For decades and to this day, there has been much hype, statistical data and a plethora of documentary evidence on corruption plaguing the Lebanese administration and putting the nation under the yoke of large budgetary deficits and lately leading to bankruptcy.

In the Lebanese public space, corruption is committed in several forms via public contracts and procurements, facilitation or “grease” payments, embezzlement of public funds, abuse of office, trading in influence and other suspicious acts.

Efforts of the Lebanese administration to fight corruption were of little or no avail. Results achieved so far provide ample evidence that measures were useless and ineffective in preventing fraud, and fall short of framing an offense against complicit public servants who should otherwise be criminalized under the Lebanese law.

Having said that, immediate attention should be given now to engaging a new mindset and caliber to fight fraud and corruption and create a momentum to implement concretely the recovery of stolen funds.

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**OUR VISION**


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**1. TO EXPOSE & ENGAGE**

We strongly believe that fighting local corruption and recovering stolen public money and assets should start and be triggered through legal actions initiated abroad and actively supported locally. Once this momentum is created, the process will be hard-to-stop locally.

Local Lebanese corruption authors along with their local and/or foreign accomplices (“their partners in crime”) should be prosecuted in front of international panels and jurisdictions first.

Our approach is the only possible way to mitigate obvious conflicts of interests and bypass pressures exercised by Lebanese politicians on our local judicial institution.

**How do we achieve our objectives?**

- Being innovative in our approach. Thinking and acting outside the box
- Daring
- Focusing on a limited number of very well targeted actions with broad effects
- Leveraging foreign countries’ legally advanced systems and using the large array of legal possibilities / actions they offer

**2. TO PROMOTE**

Alongside international legal actions, we founded a think tank led by Professor Maan Bou Saber together with a team of prominent Lebanese and international jurists.

This think tank aims at challenging Lebanon’s current judicial system patterns and pushing for innovative change to address and redress this matter of vital importance to Lebanon.

**LBIU think tank provides a platform**

- to mobilize expertise
- to research and offer creative, pragmatic and actionable policy solutions
- to build networks through which it nurtures and spreads ideas and catalyzes action
- to influence public policy debate

In order to establish an up-to-date, strong and independent judicial power, guarantor of freedoms and rights. The basis of any democracy.

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**OUR VALUES**

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We hold justice, integrity, credibility, accountability, transparency, courage, ethical values, and merit-based systems in highest regard.

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**OUR TEAM**

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Our team is constituted of a large array of Lebanese and international seasoned professionals who come from various political and religious backgrounds.

We all share the same values, vision and focus. We have decided to unite to fight effectively against corruption, and track Lebanon's stolen public money and assets around the globe.

Our team is made up of lawyers, former prosecutors, economists, researchers, analysts, financial investigators, auditors, investigative journalists, communicators, business professionals and experts from various backgrounds.

We work closely with a global network of professionals and organizations of the civil society around the world.

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## OUR KEY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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**Professionalism.** The actions LBIOU undertakes are based on sound, objective and professional analysis and high standards of research.

**Non-political.** Non-Sectarian. LBIOU is politically non-partisan and non-sectarian in its work, nor it is affiliated to any political or religious party.

**Independence.** LBIOU places great importance on its independence. LBIOU alone determines its programs and activities. No one has any influence on its policies and actions. LBIOU only accepts funding that does not compromise its ability to address issues freely, thoroughly and objectively.

**Transparency & Accountability.** LBIOU's sources of funding are transparent and audited. So are its spending. It provides accurate and timely reports of its activities.



# WHAT IS CORRUPTION ?

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## GENERAL NATURE OF CORRUPT CONDUCT

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### Corrupt conduct is:

a) Any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the honest or impartial exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority, or

b) Any conduct of a public official that constitutes or involves the dishonest or partial exercise of any of his or her official functions, or

c) Any conduct of a public official or former public official that constitutes or involves a breach of public trust, or

d) Any conduct of a public official or former public official that involves the misuse of information or material that he or she has acquired in the course of his or her official functions, whether or not for his or her benefit or for the benefit of any other person

Corrupt conduct is also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority and which could involve any of the following matters:

				
official misconduct*	bribery	blackmail	obtaining or offering secret commission	fraud
				
theft	perverting the course of justice	embezzlement	election bribery	election funding offences
				
treating	tax evasion	revenue evasion	currency violations	illegal drug dealings
				
illegal gambling	obtaining financial benefit by vice engaged in by others	bankruptcy and company violation	harboring criminals	forgery
				
treason or other offences	homicide or violence			

- ▶ Matters of the same or a similar nature to any listed above.
- ▶ Any conspiracy or attempt in relation to any of the above.

*\*including breach of trust, fraud in office, nonfeasance, misfeasance, malfeasance, oppression, extortion or imposition.*

Corrupt conduct is also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that impairs, or that could impair, public confidence in public administration and which could involve any of the following matters:

a) Collusive tendering

b) Fraud in relation to applications for licenses, permits or other authorities under legislation designed to protect health and safety or the environment or designed to facilitate the management and commercial exploitation of resources

c) Dishonestly obtaining or assisting in obtaining, or dishonestly benefiting from, the payment or application of public funds for private advantage or the disposition of public assets for private advantage

d) Defrauding the public revenue

e) Fraudulently obtaining or retaining employment or appointment as a public official

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