





eh/yes



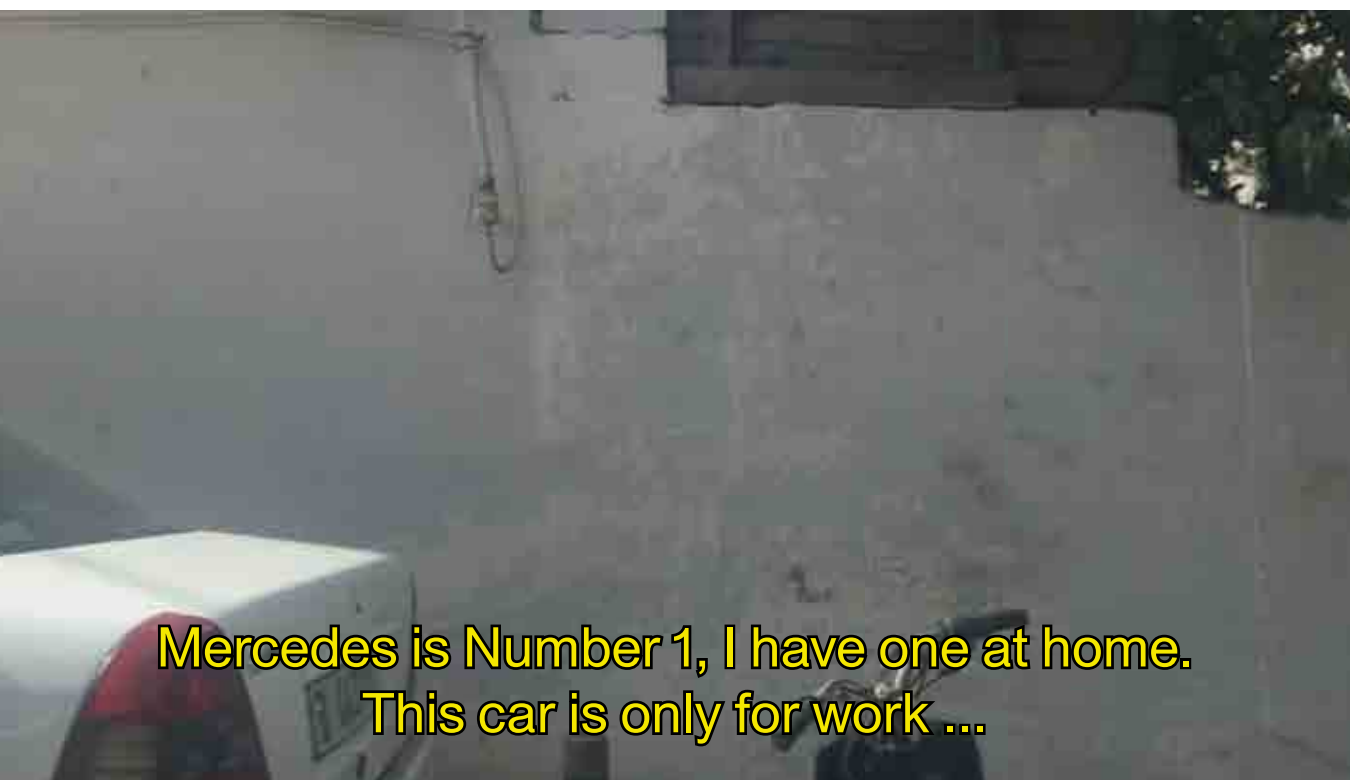
silence



Where are you from?



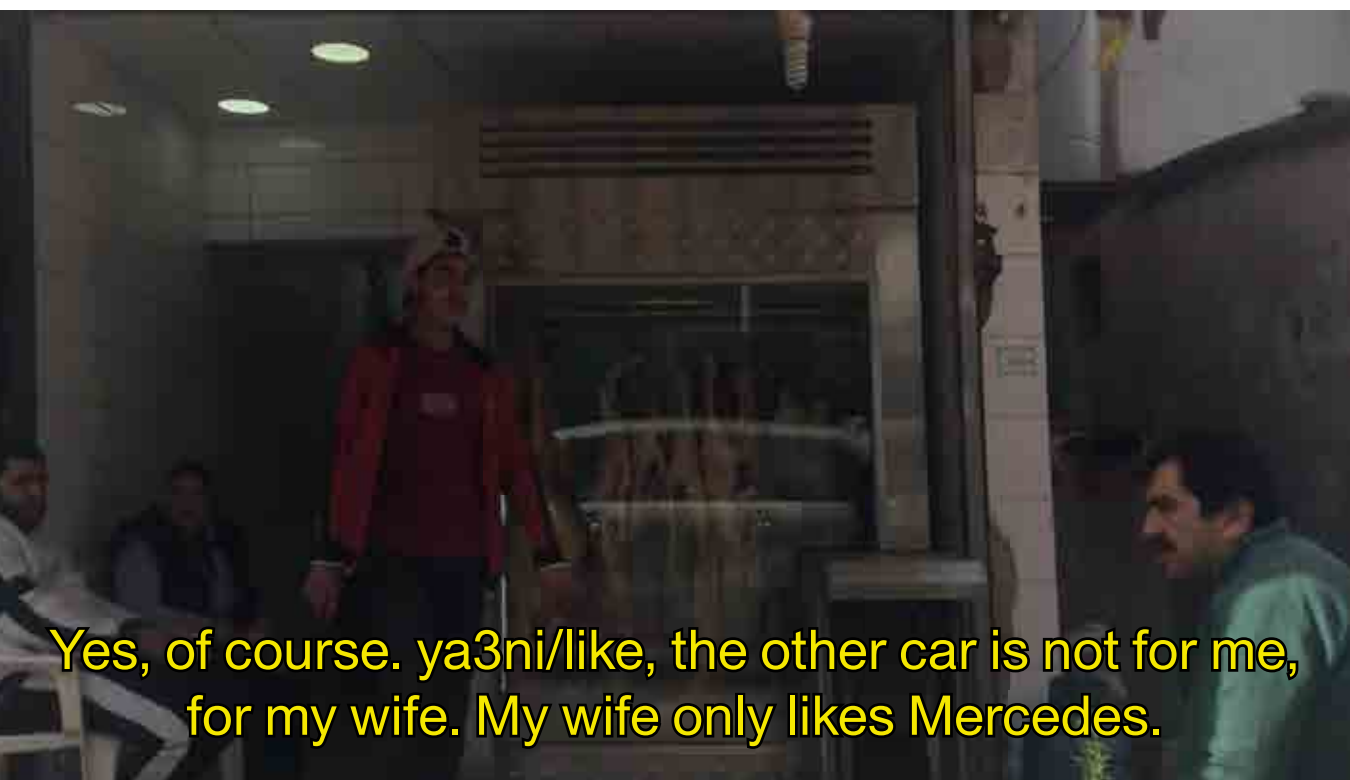
Germany.



Mercedes is Number 1, I have one at home.
This car is only for work ...



But this car is also good?



Yes, of course. ya3ni/like, the other car is not for me,
for my wife. My wife only likes Mercedes.



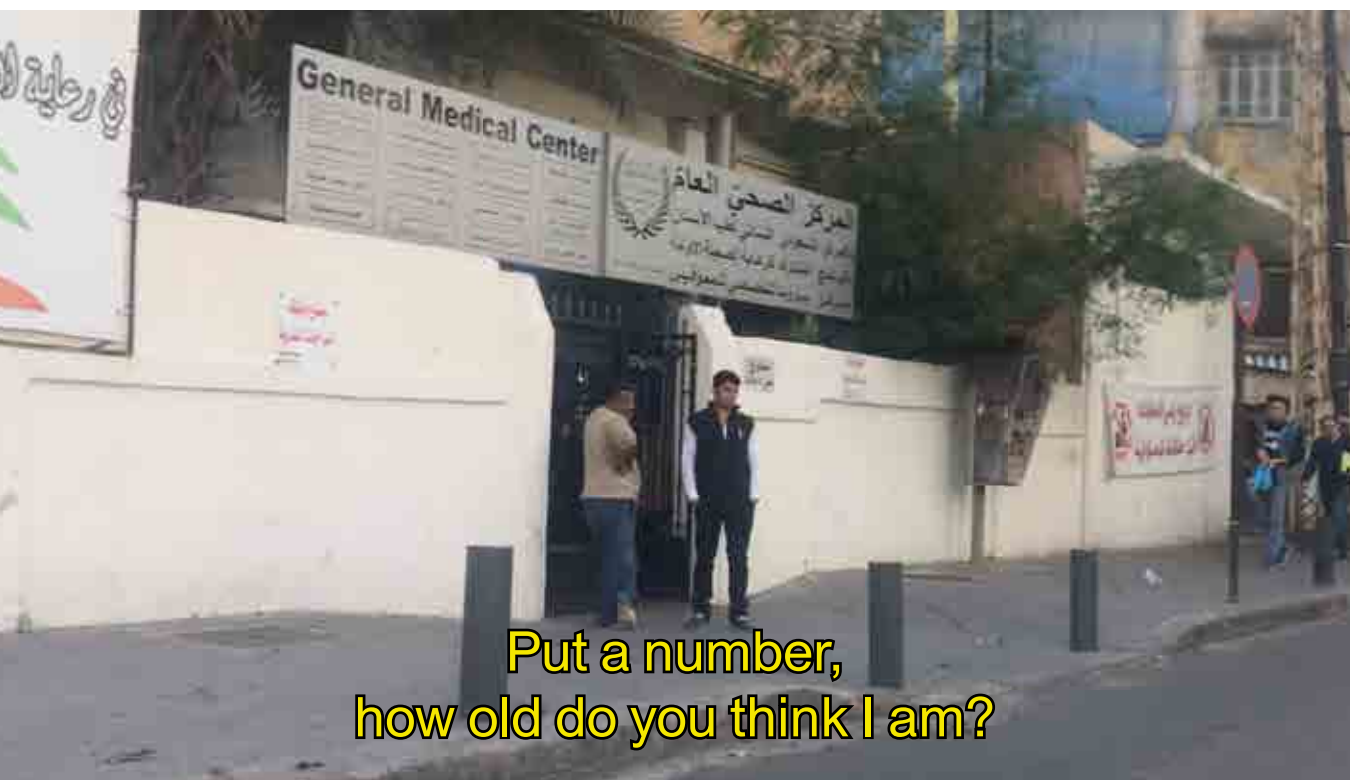
For how long are you a taxi driver?



How many years I drive?
Fifty five.



Uf.





69.



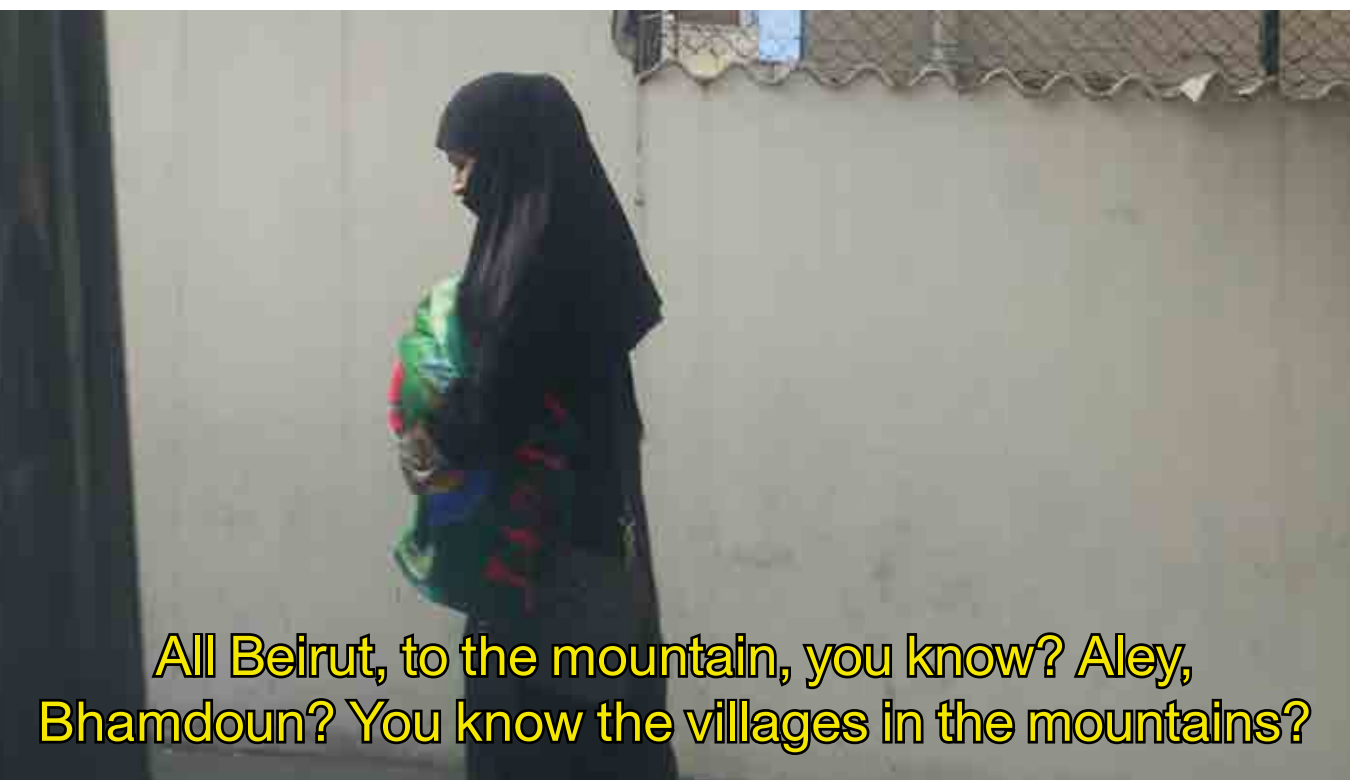
More than half of your life,
you have been a taxi driver. How do you like it?



ya3ni/like, sometimes I like it.
What I can do.



You drive in all Beirut?



All Beirut, to the mountain, you know? Aley,
Bhamdoun? You know the villages in the mountains?



You drive their also?



In Summer, there are too much people going to the villages.



And what you think of Beirut?



In Beirut too much people, too much traffic.
I like small cities.



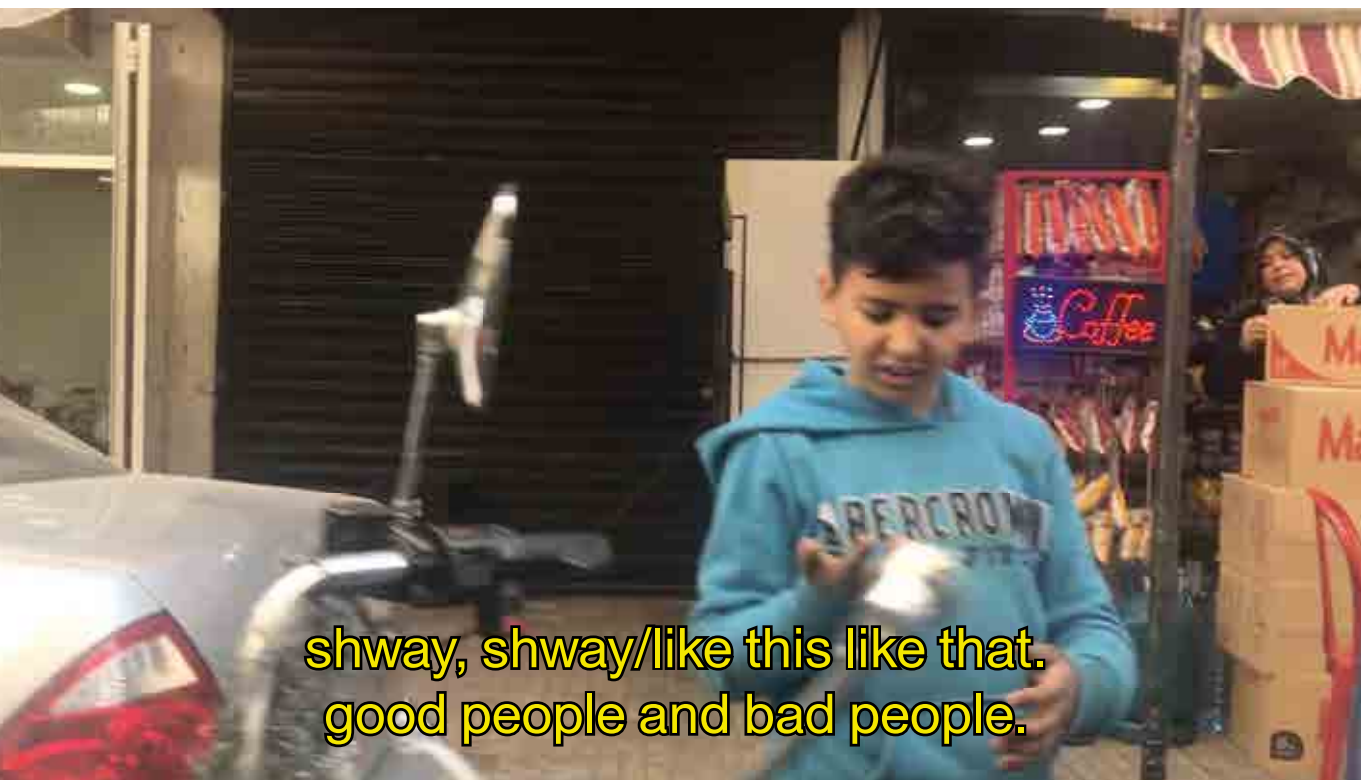
What kind of people do you meet in the car?



ya3ni/like people in Beirut?
Lebanese people?



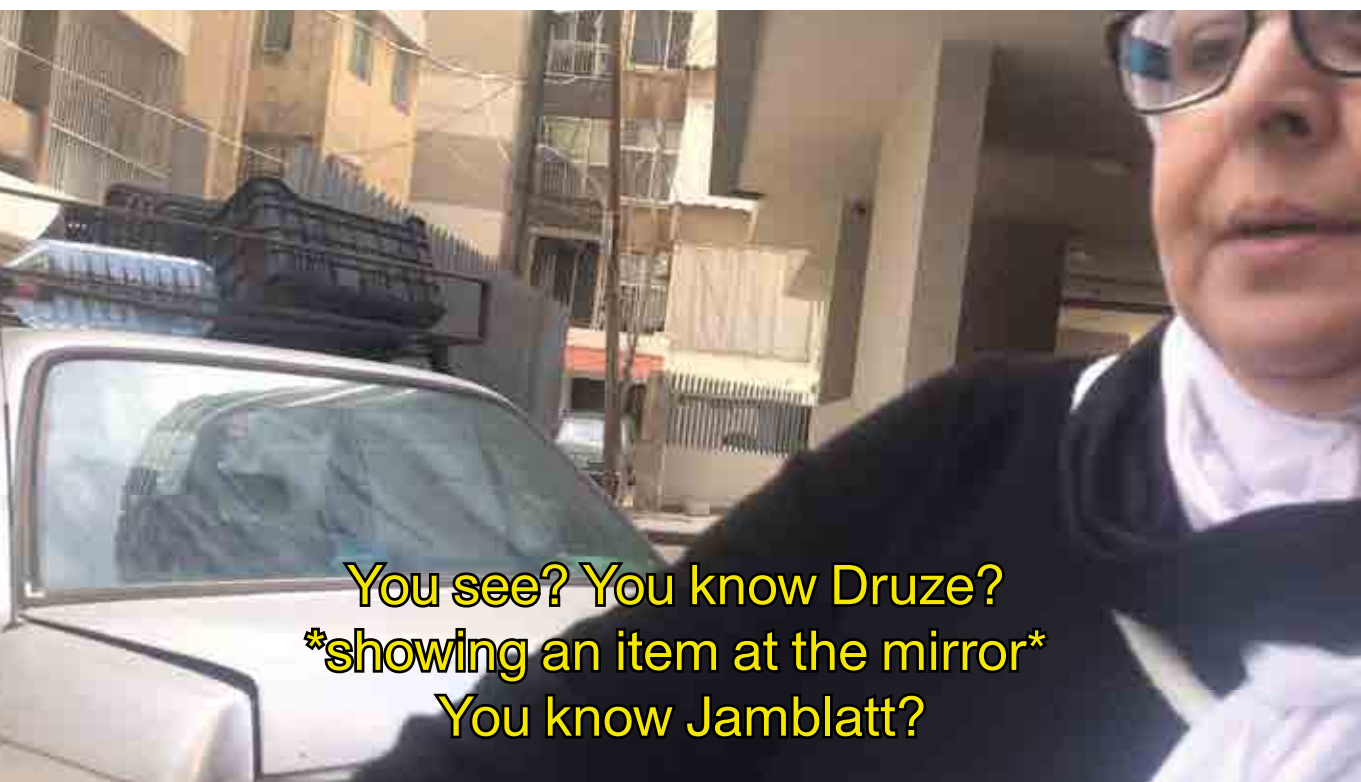
Yes.



shway, shway/like this like that.
good people and bad people.



What about religion and culture?



You see? You know Druze?
showing an item at the mirror
You know Jamblatt?



No.



The President of the Druze.
Druze are like Moslem but different. In my country there
are only Druze and Christian. 50/50.



Mh.

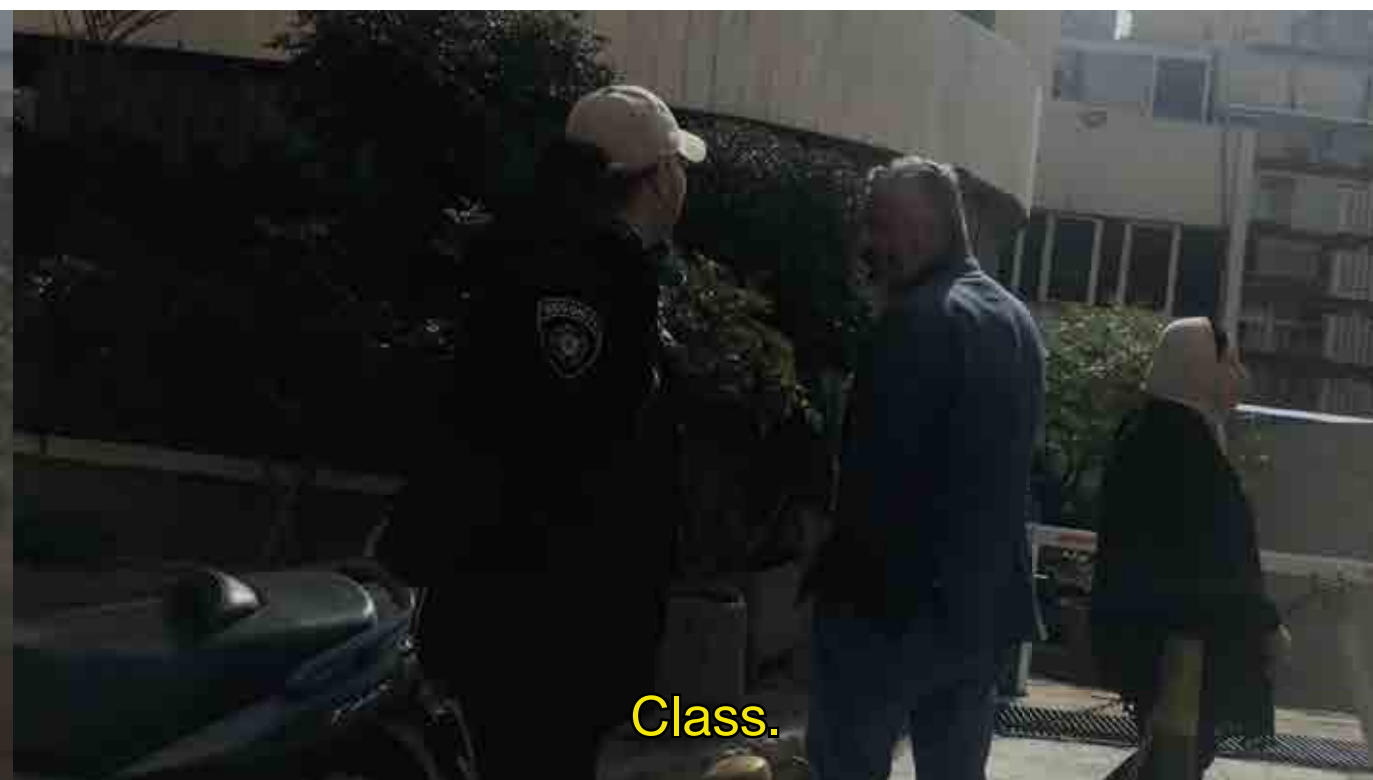




Are your parents German or
Lebanese people? Mother, Father?



3ayleti/my family from Germany.

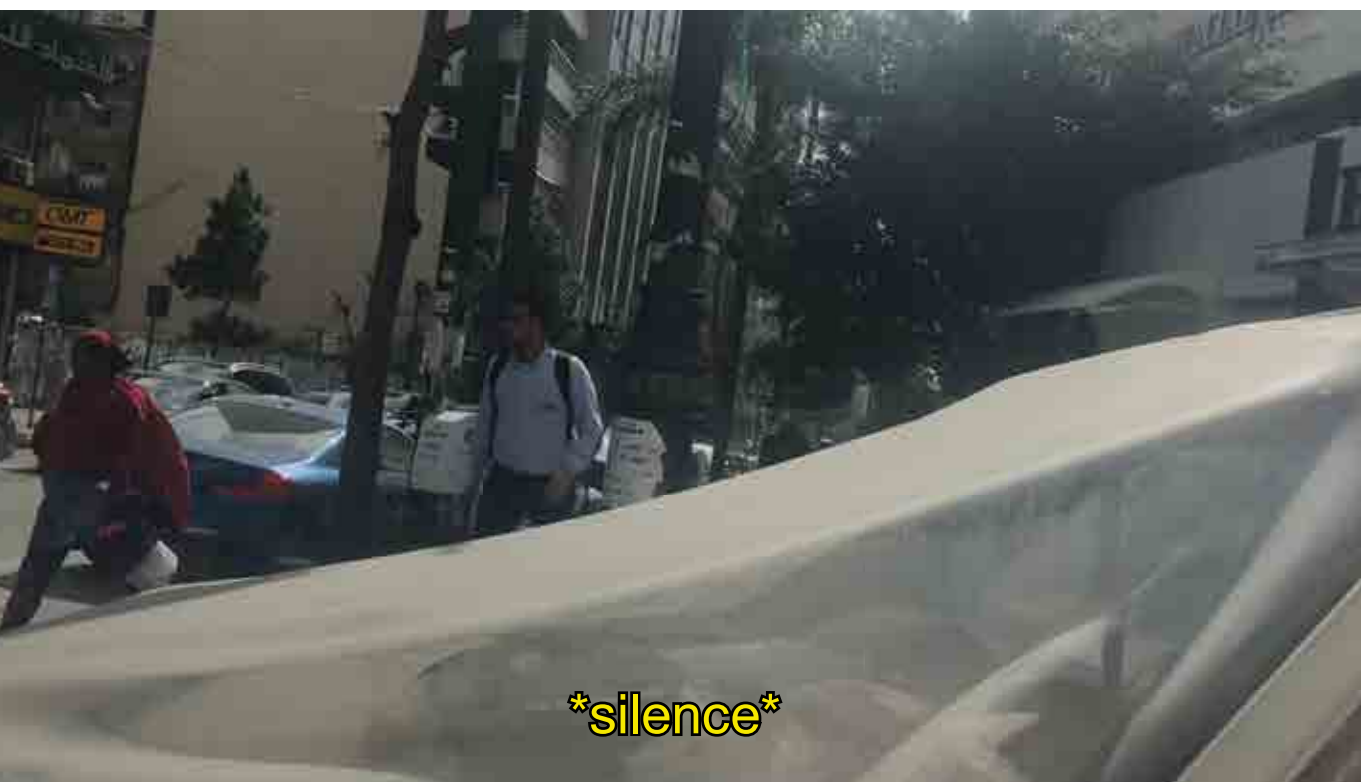




It is servicén/double charge.



No way.



silence



shukran/thank you



Bye



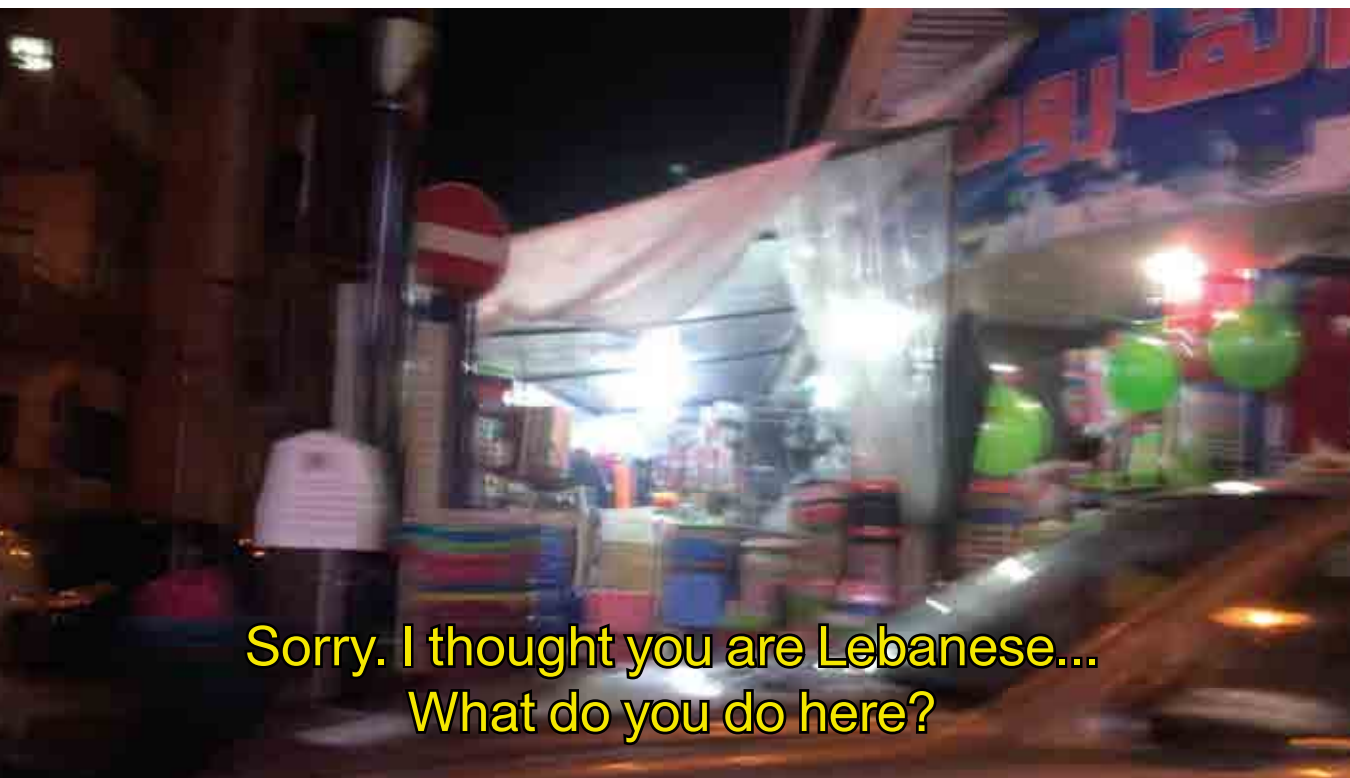
Sursock?



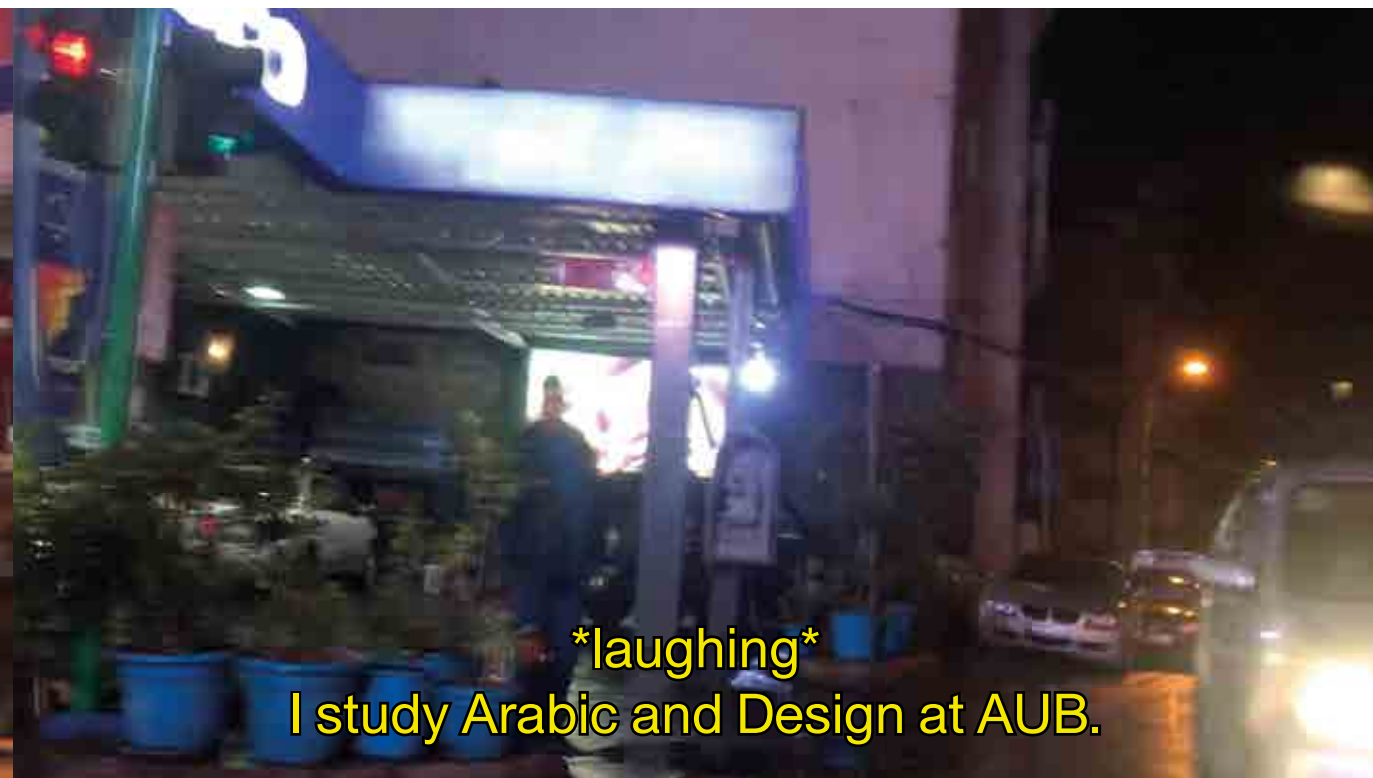
Talking Arabic



inglizi?



Sorry. I thought you are Lebanese...
What do you do here?



laughing
I study Arabic and Design at AUB.



For how long are you here?



For one semester.



One semester here?



Yeah.



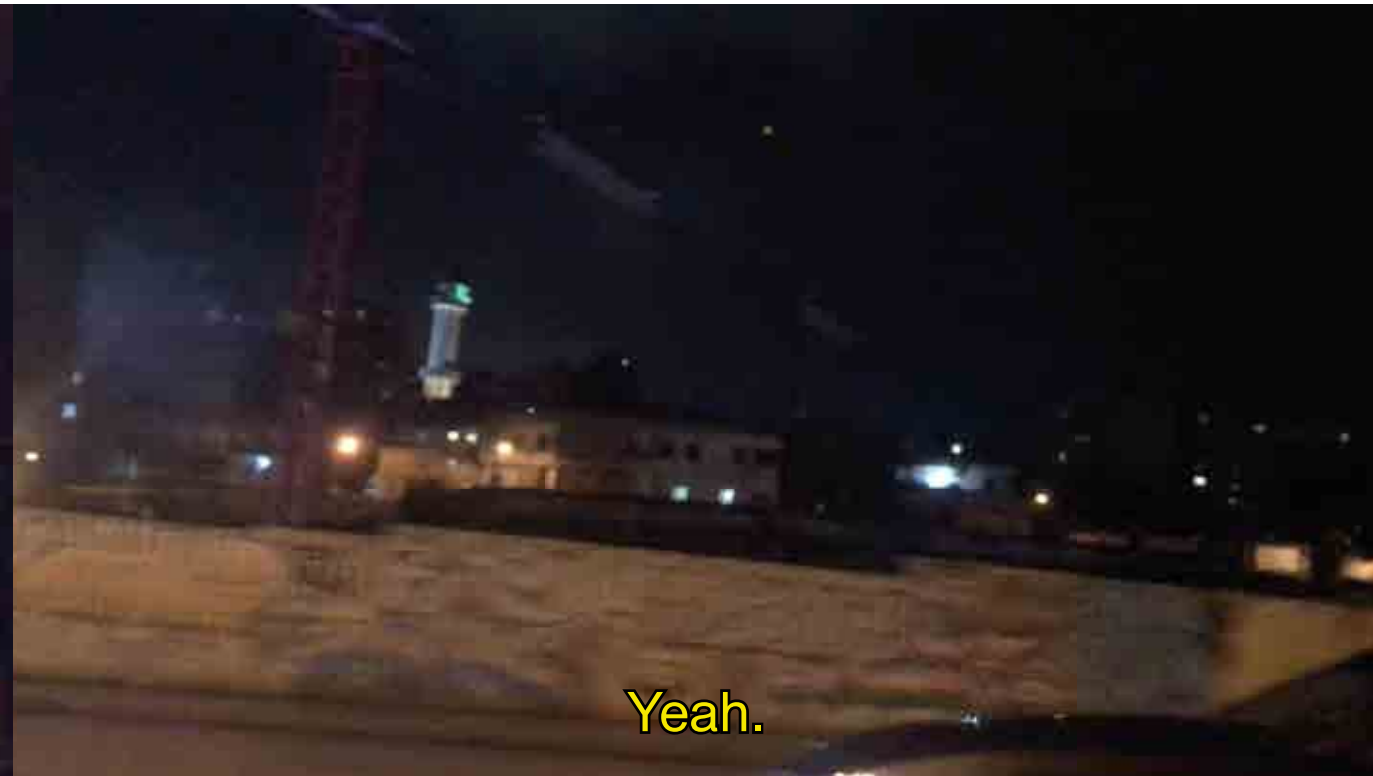
But when do you finish?



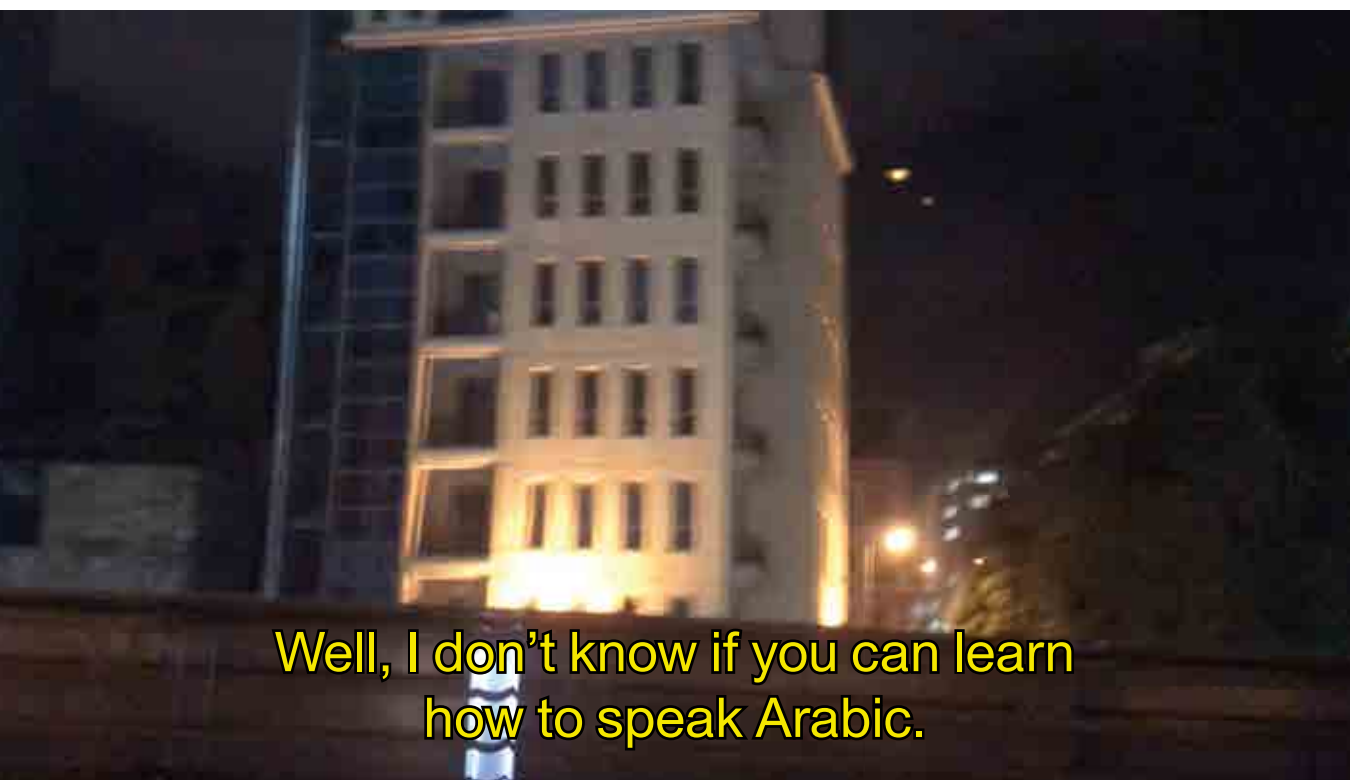
Till May.



Only?



Yeah.



Well, I don't know if you can learn
how to speak Arabic.



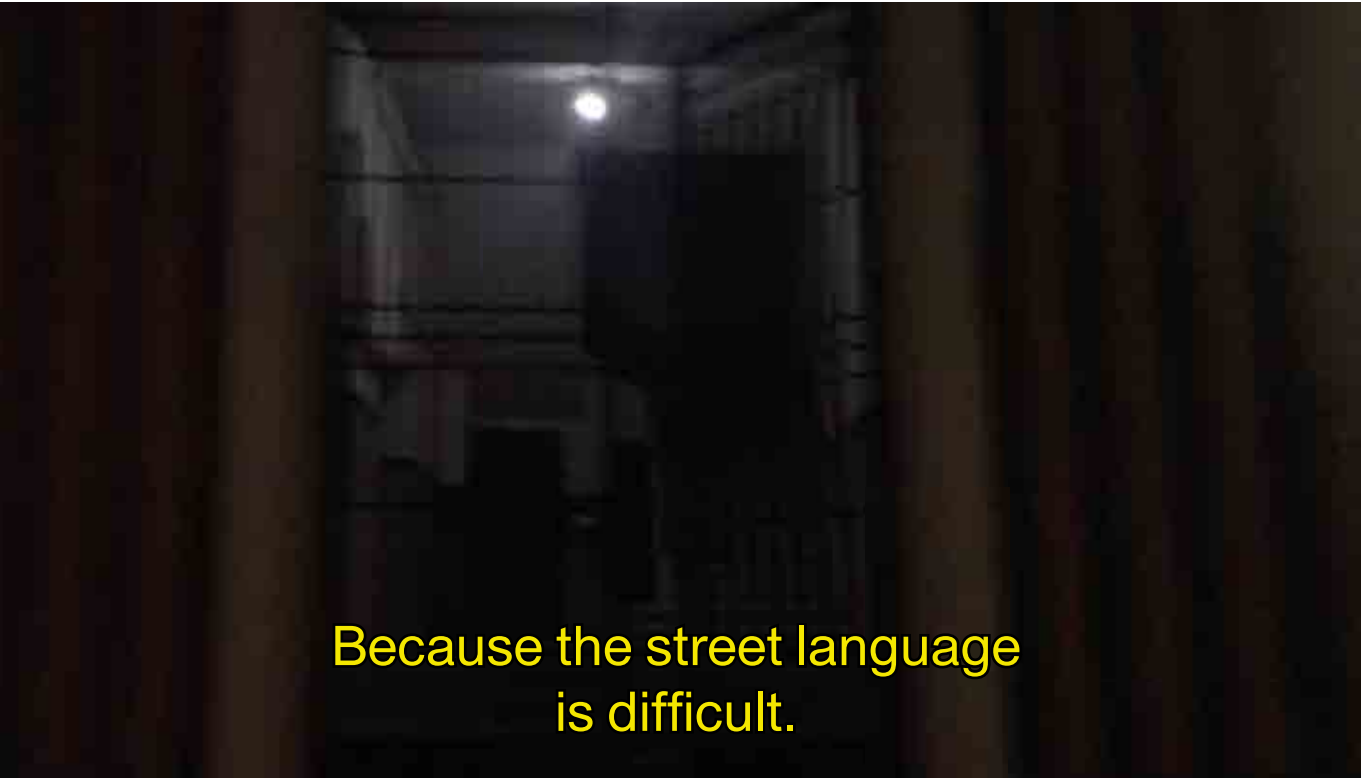
I am trying, not giving up.



You must speak, not only learn!
Speak with arabic people.



This is the problem.



Because the street language
is difficult.



Say something in Arabic then ...



ana daraset almani bi
Goethe Institut?



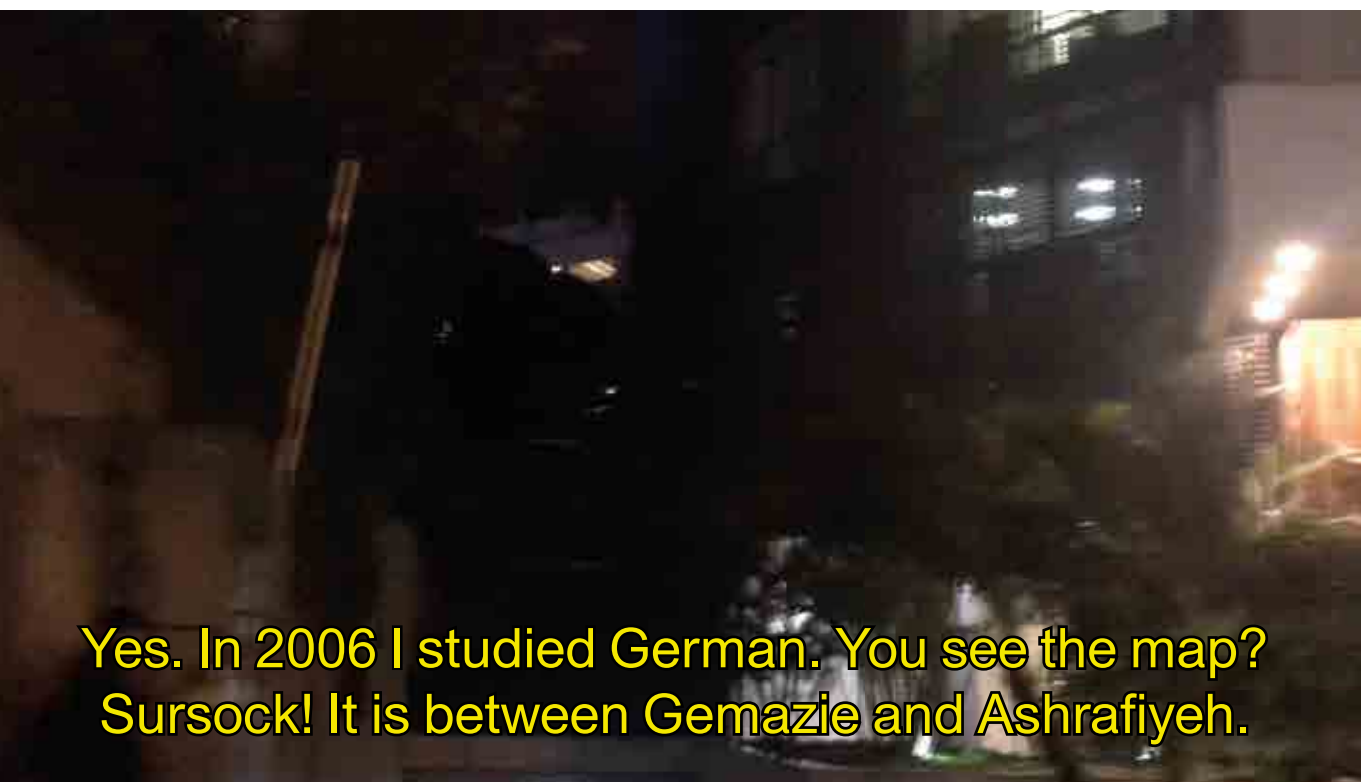
You studied German at
Goethe Institut?



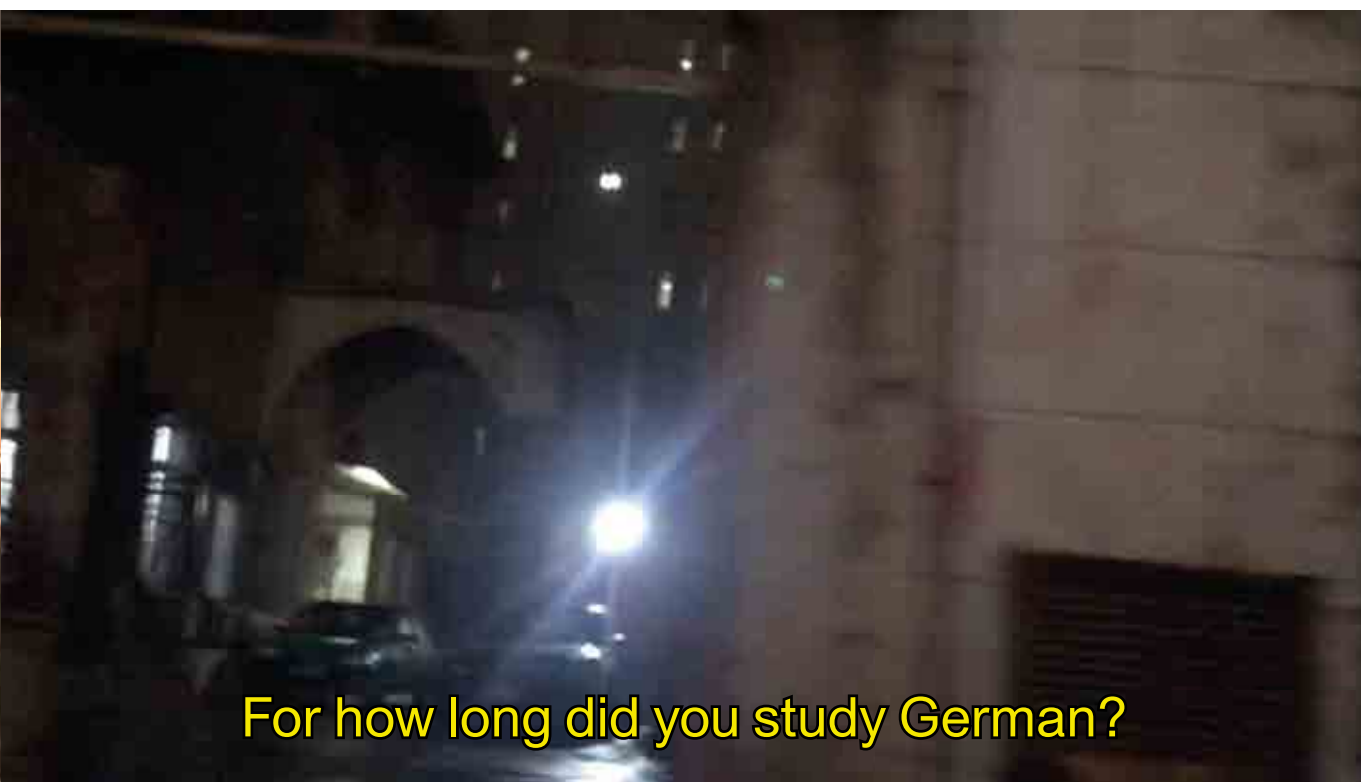
Bas ana daraset
I am speaking slowly, slowly.



Is this a true story?
Or you make it up?



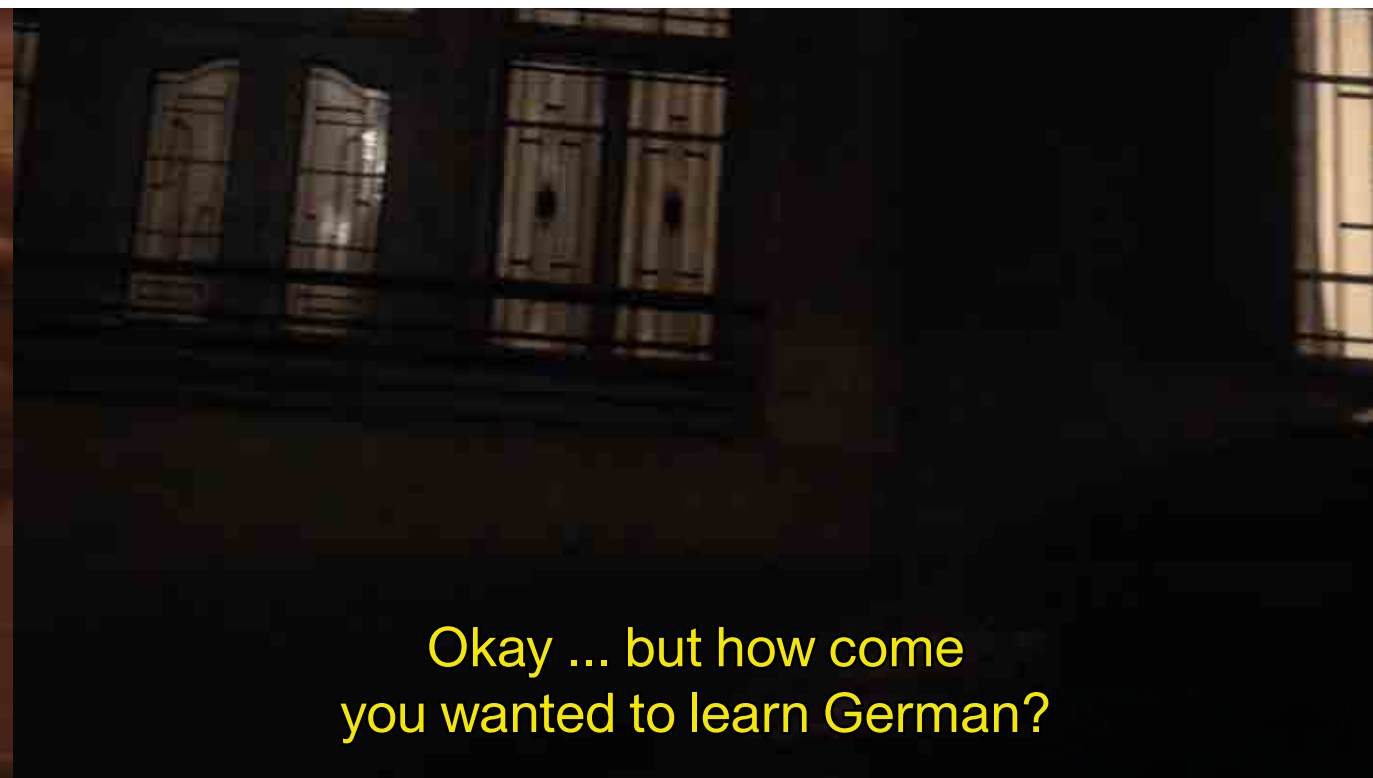
Yes. In 2006 I studied German. You see the map?
Sursock! It is between Gemazie and Ashrafiyeh.



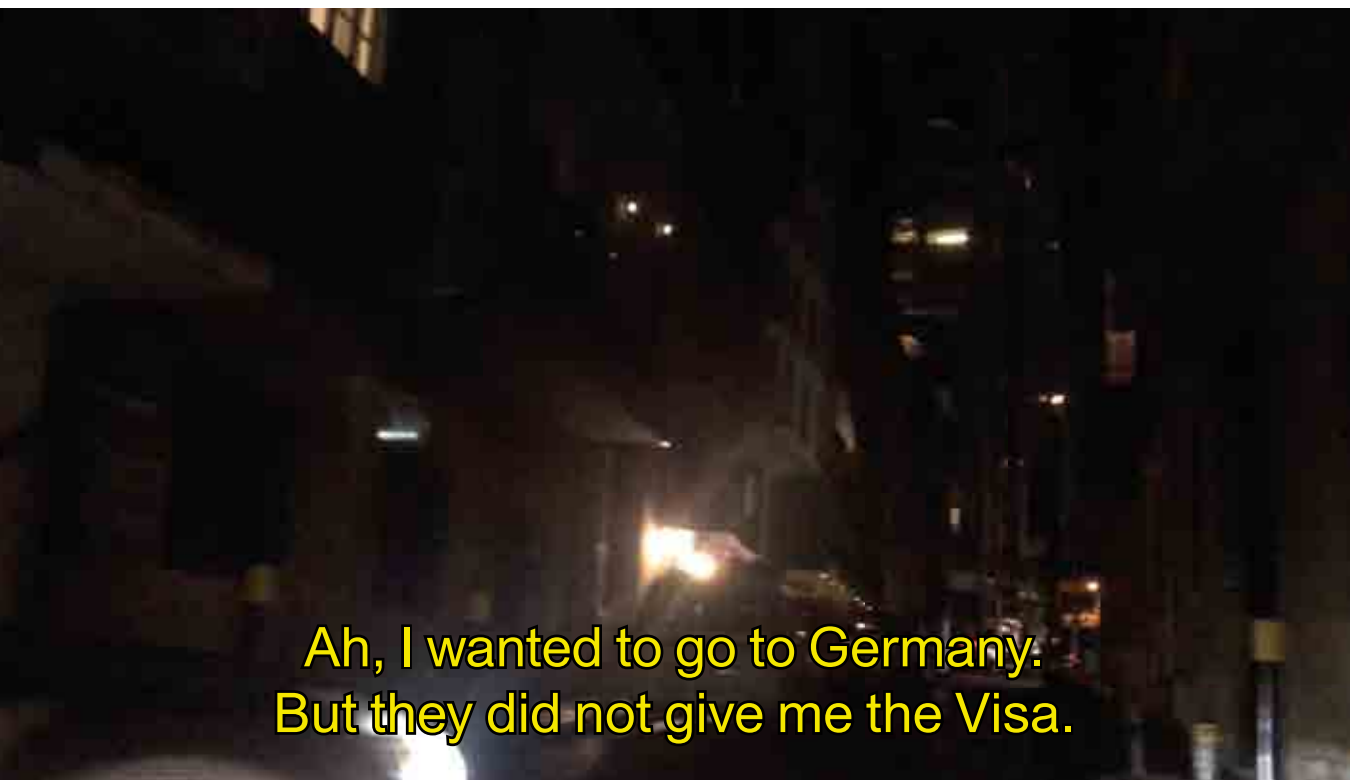
For how long did you study German?



For 4 months. LEVEL 1.
Do you understand? a u ... means au. Frau.



Okay ... but how come
you wanted to learn German?

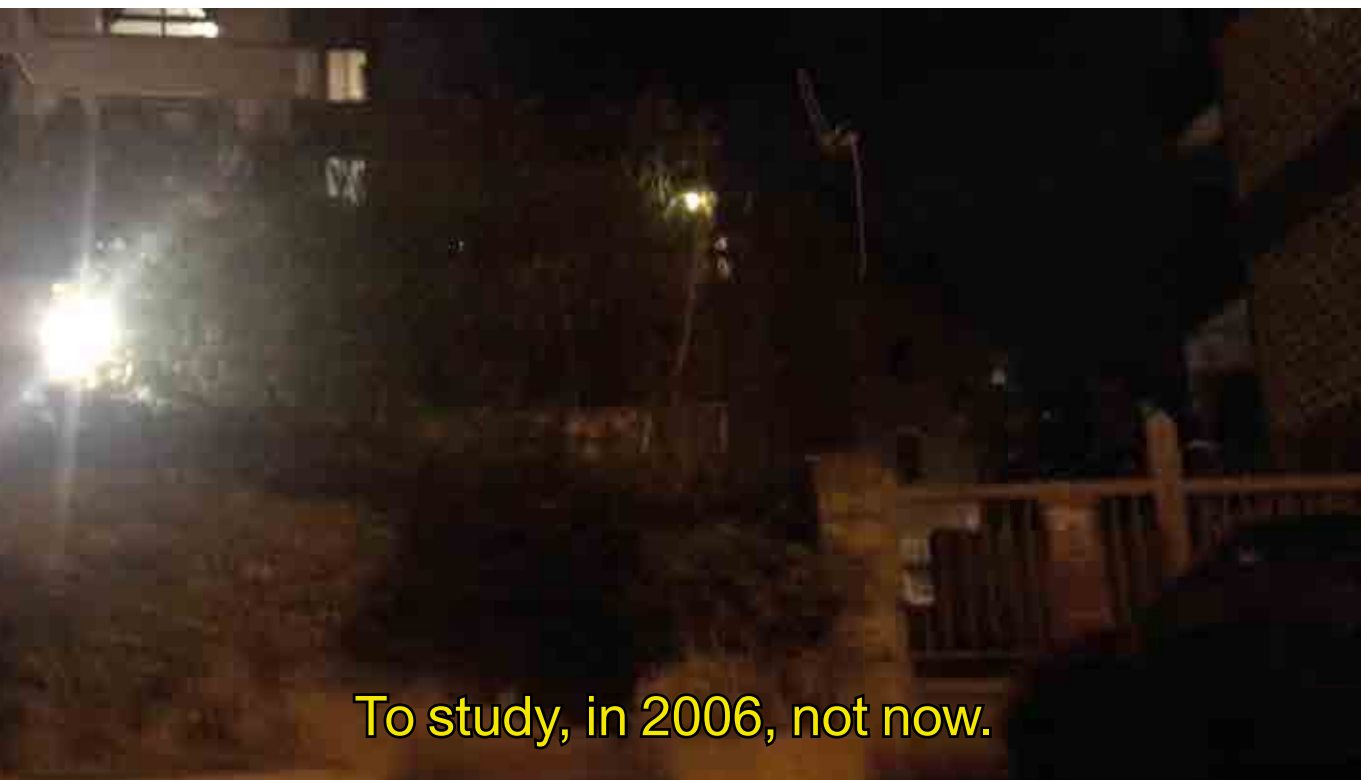




Yes 9 months for the embassy.



What did you want to do here?



To study, in 2006, not now.



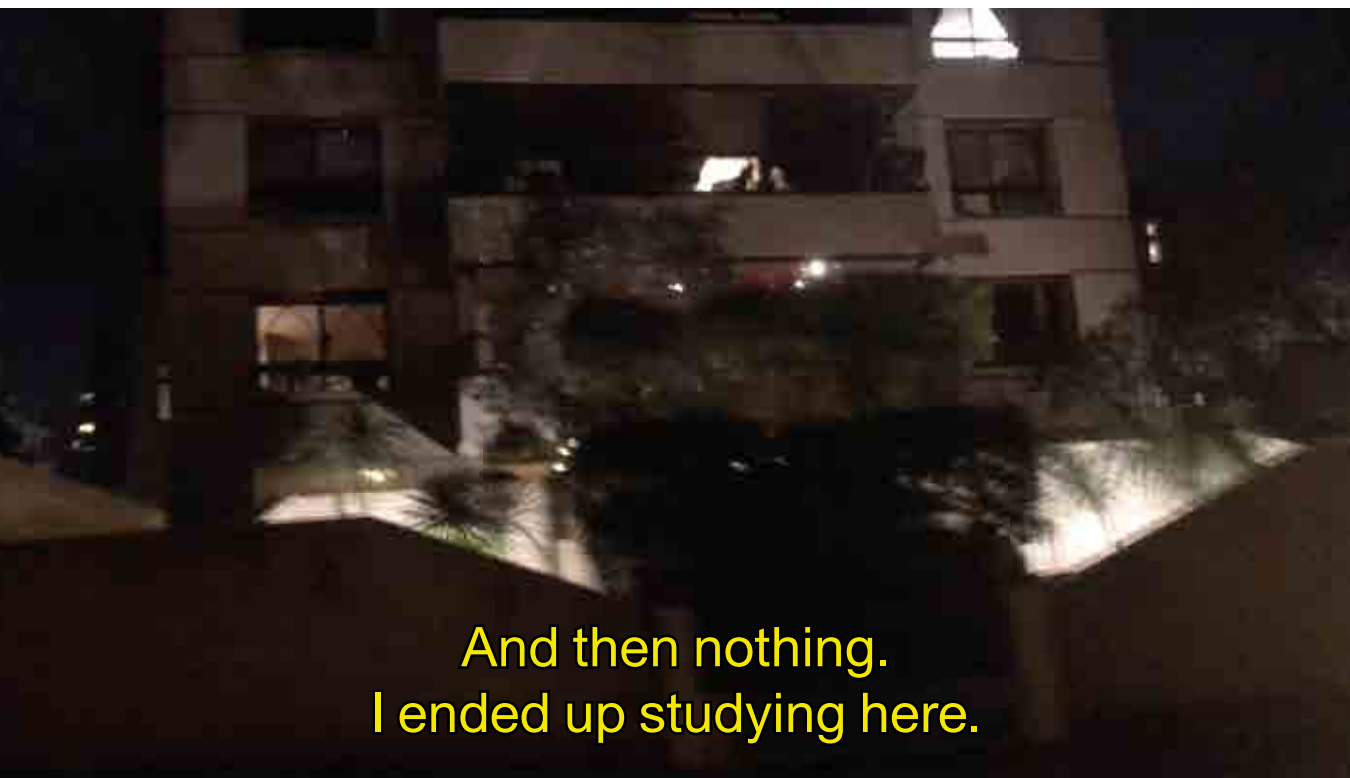
Mh ...



I registered at the university there, I rent a house,
I sent money, 11.000 Euro to the bank.



Shit.



And then nothing.
I ended up studying here.



Did they say why they refused?



No, just refuse. Nothing. I never want to go anymore.
The embassy makes me hate Germany.



I understand.





Nice to meet you, too.




Karakol El-Druze?



taxi driver nodding



another customer talking Arabic to me
Sorry, I don't speak Arabic!



Oh, I said, sorry, I should have moved to the other side of the car to let you enter from the sidewalk.



No worries at all!



Where are you from?



From Germany.



Ah, aus Deutschland!



How come you speak German?



I am a banker. I used to work all over the world.
I used to.



Oh, where did you use to work?



I worked in Frankfurt for 3 months.



But you came back to Beirut?



Yes, but I worked for an international bank ... also living for some time in New York. It was a Soviet Bank.



muezin outside
But you always wanted to come back to Lebanon?





If I had the chance, I would have gone. All my children are in the States. In Washington DC. They have their life there, they were born there.



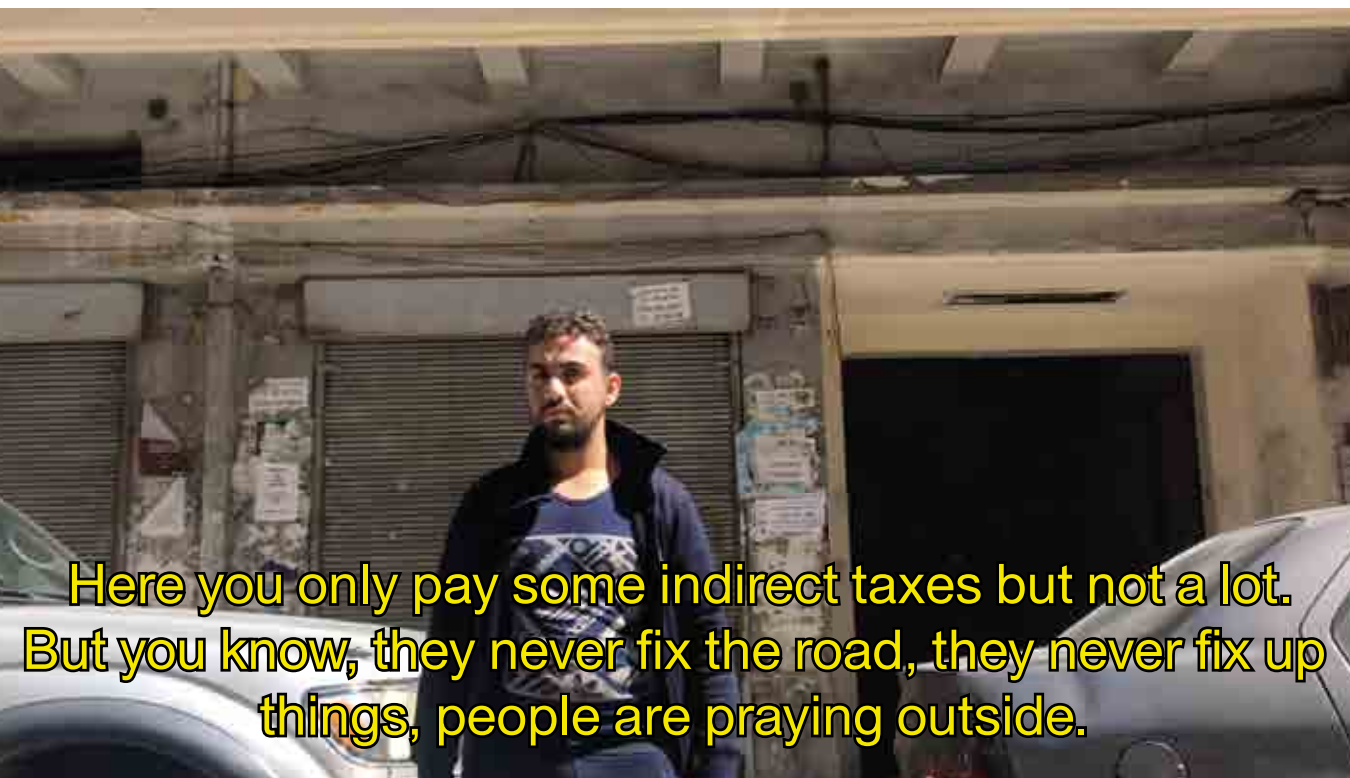
And why did you not go?



Because of taxes!



How does it work here with taxes?



Here you only pay some indirect taxes but not a lot.
But you know, they never fix the road, they never fix up
things, people are praying outside.



Mh ...



In Germany you pay a lot of taxes!



True. I am lucky my father is a tax consultant.



You are safe! You are safe! *laughing*



Yes exactly. He takes care of me.





Nice time madam. It was a pleasure meeting you.
Aufwiedersehen!/Goodbye!



Aufwiedersehen!/Goodbye!





He works for a Russian bank.
Three years ago he stopped.



And what about you?

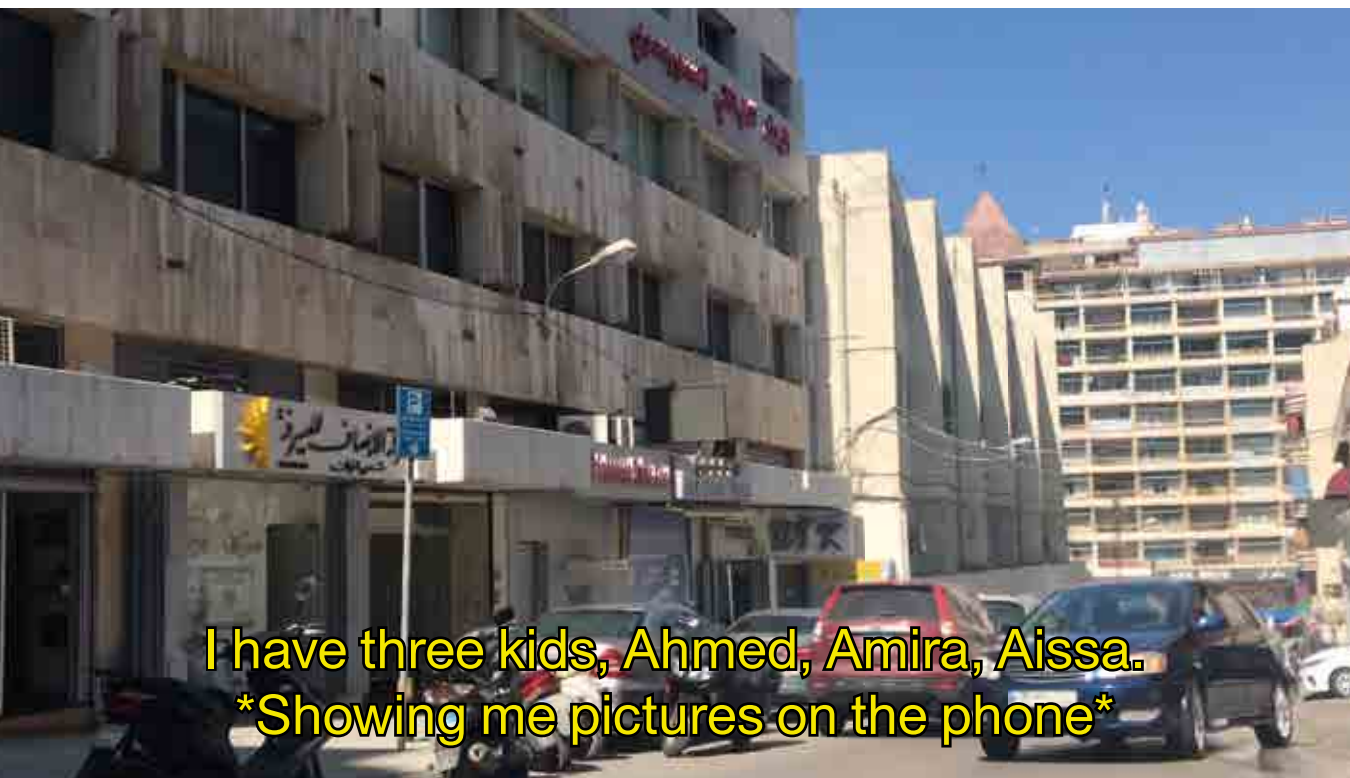




Yes, I only couldn't carry heavy things.



And what about your family?





This is my girl Amira.



She is so cute. A lot!



This is the smallest, Ahmad



Mhh.





Merci. You are married?



I have a boyfriend from Lebanon.



Hilo/nice



He is from Jounieh.



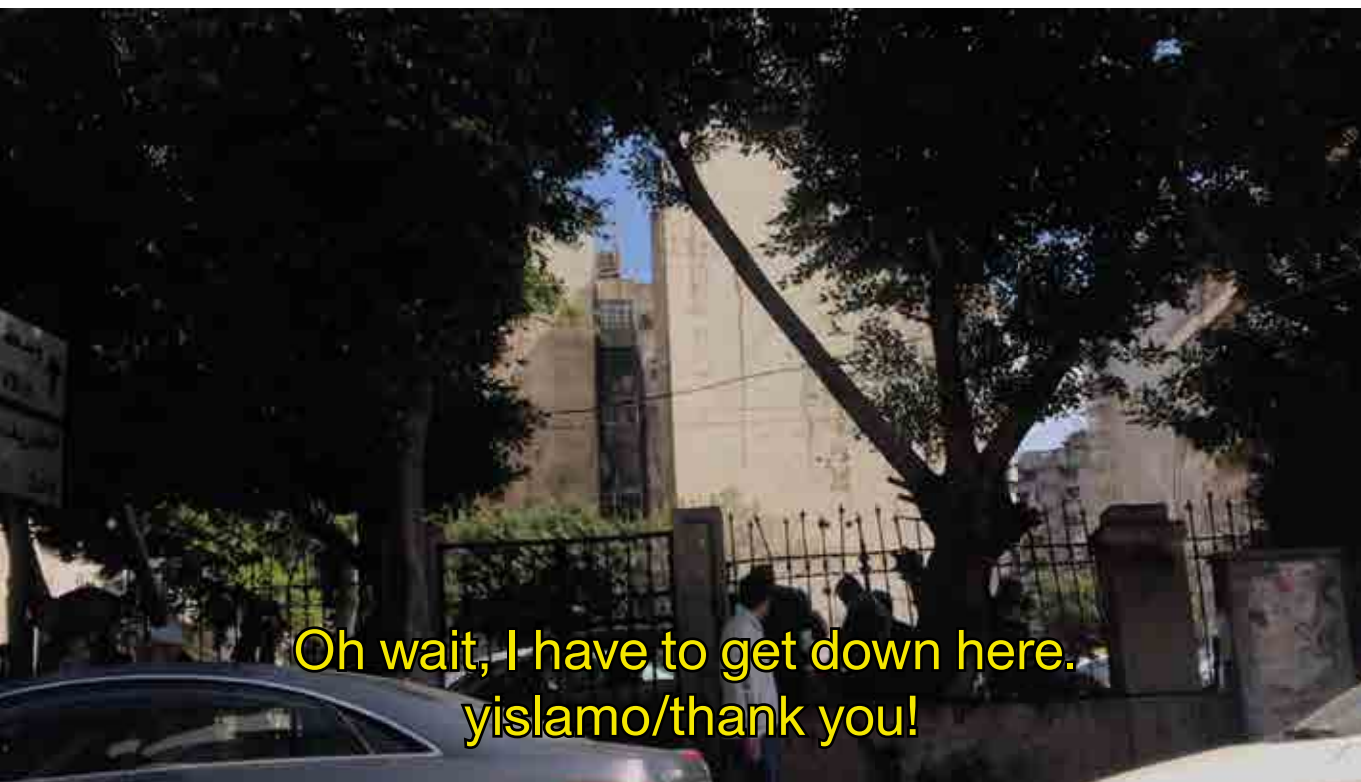
Jounie is very nice!



Only the traffic!
Is too much sometimes.



Yes, the traffic in Lebanon is too much.



Oh wait, I have to get down here.
yislamo/thank you!





So ... it is like I am telling you my son.



Imagine, they raised the dream
for the people against each other ...



And the people even with their consciousness
how did they follow? I don't know.



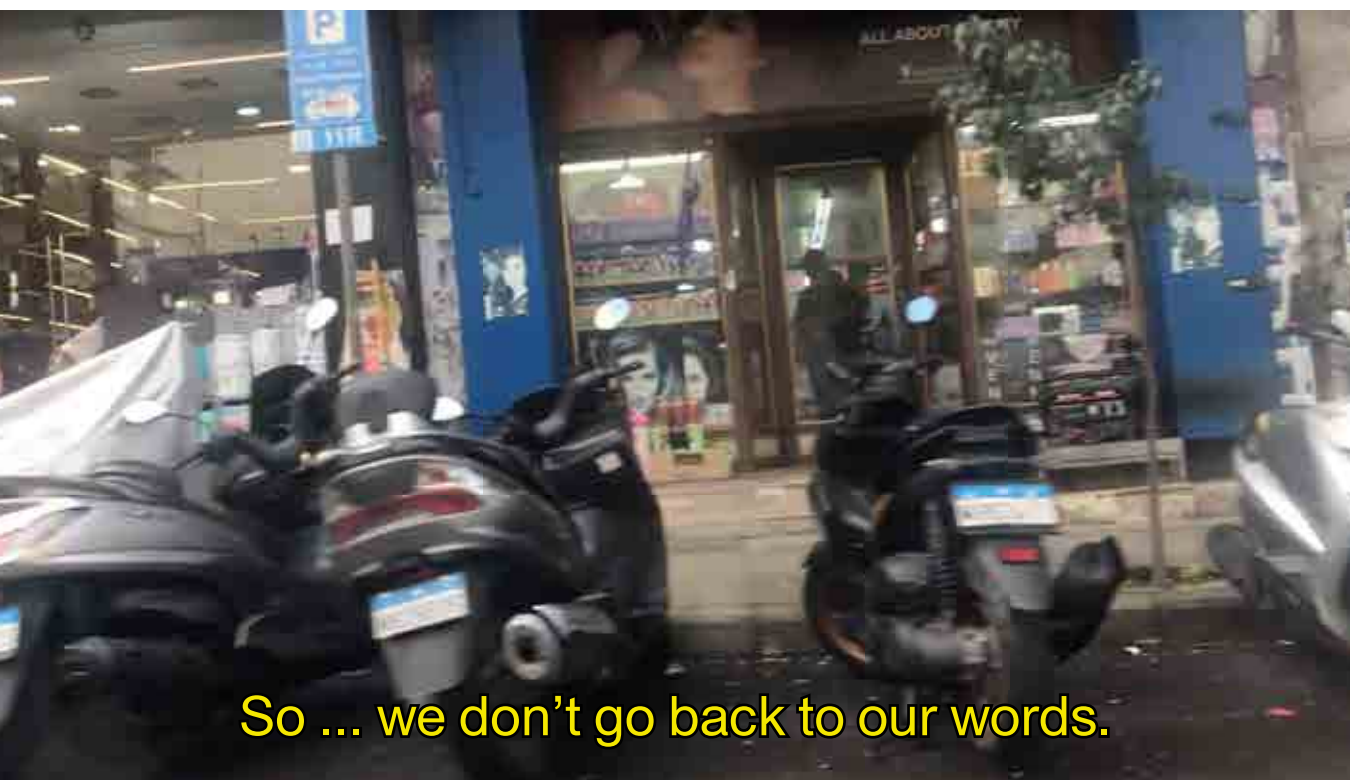
Welcome to
tabuleh/Persley Salad



Something like an action film!



Believe me, he killed the people.



So ... we don't go back to our words.



Did you get the lesson or not?



Everyday, how sad, the same punch.
And before they told Iraq and Khadaffi you
didn't find business with the Arabs.



I will touch you, they make them zuchini.



So, we used you to fight. Now,
we fight you because there will come a day
where you will fight Israel.



boom, boom, boom



Syria is not doing anything.



honking and cursing
inta hamar/you donkey



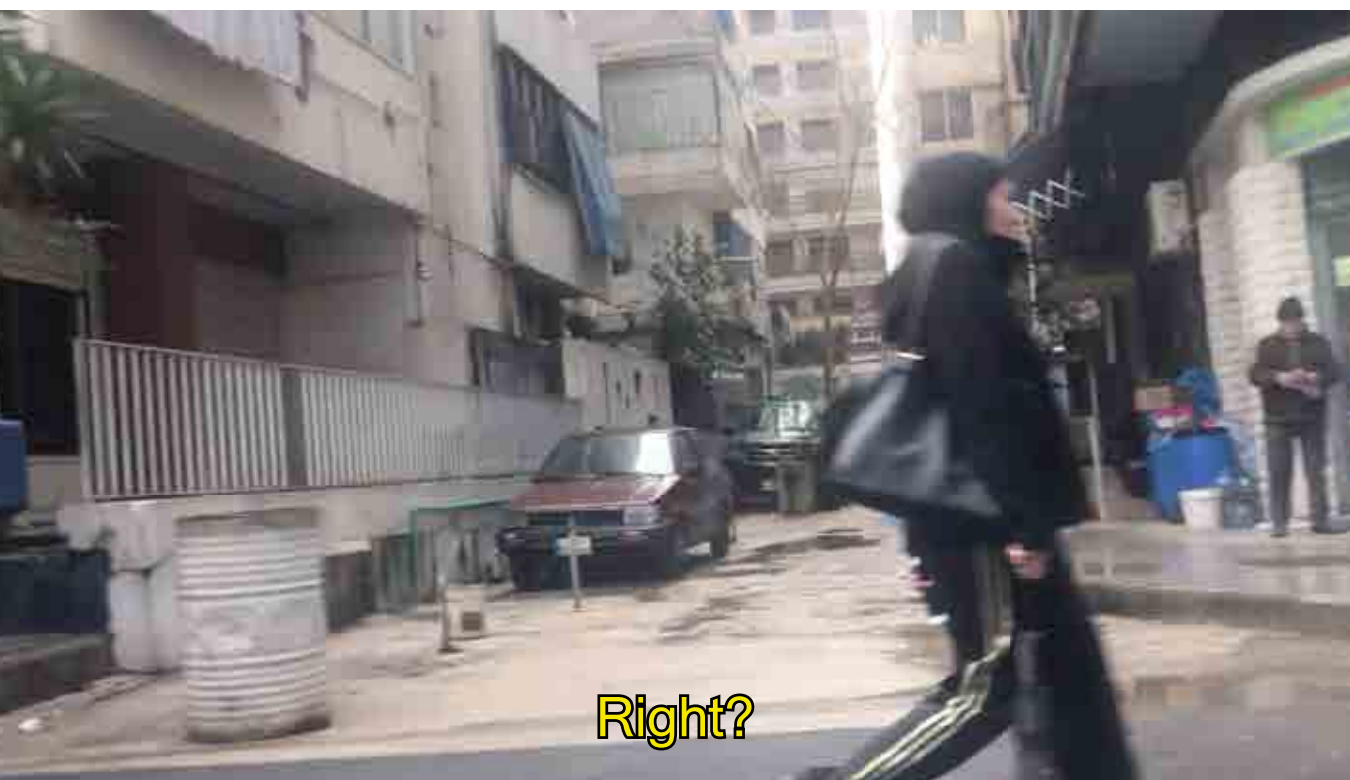
Syria keeps control over their products and money.
mashallah



They don't need help from outside.









What happened, people are out of the country ...



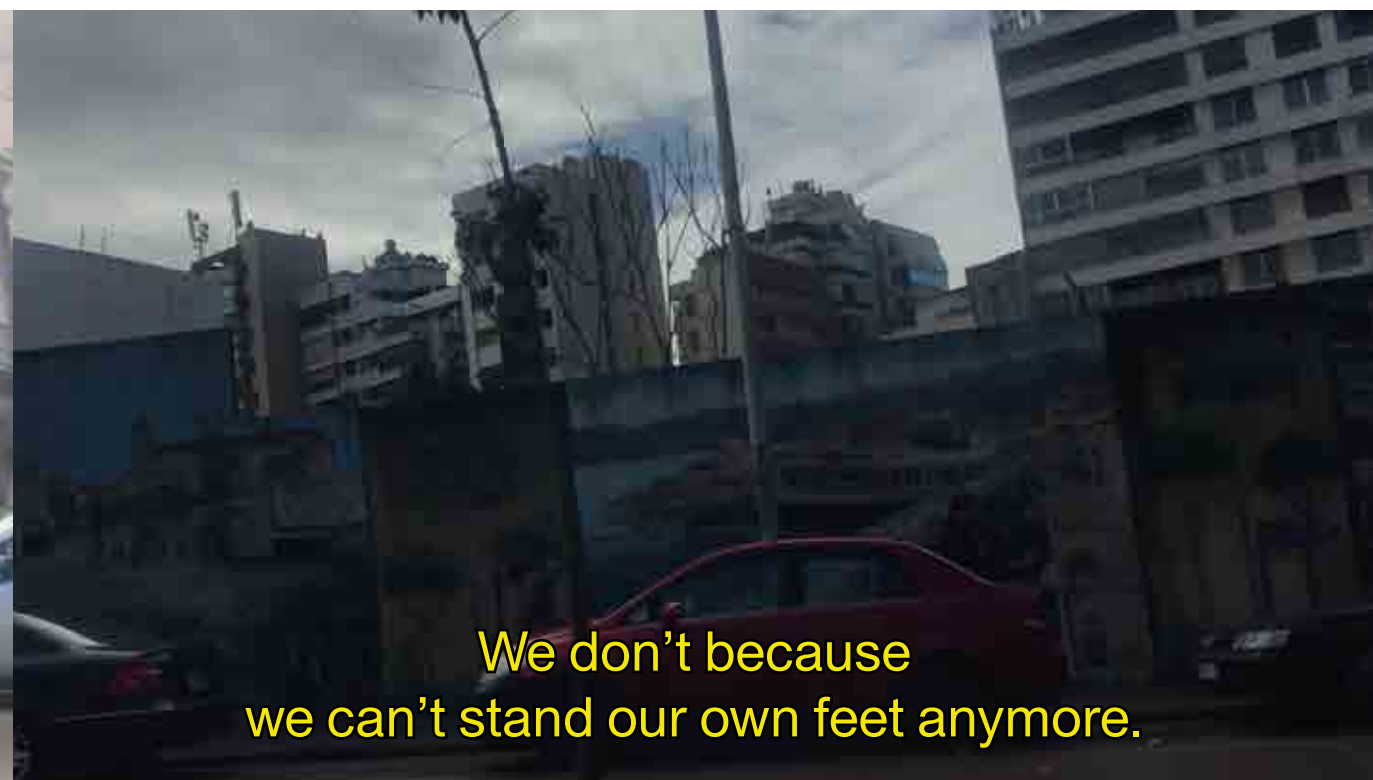
The Jews, Americans and Russians came in and killed ... yalla fabricon station!







We do because
we don't have wars anymore.

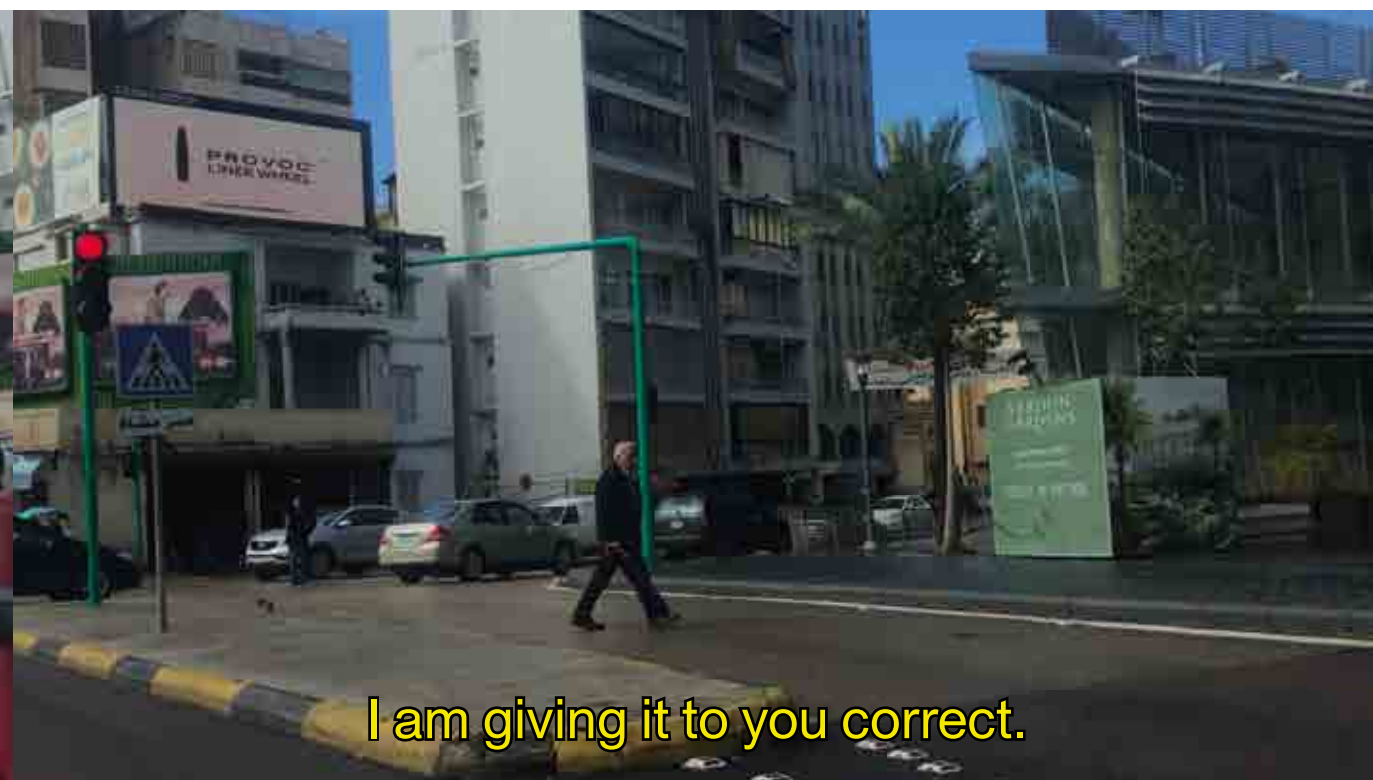


We don't because
we can't stand our own feet anymore.

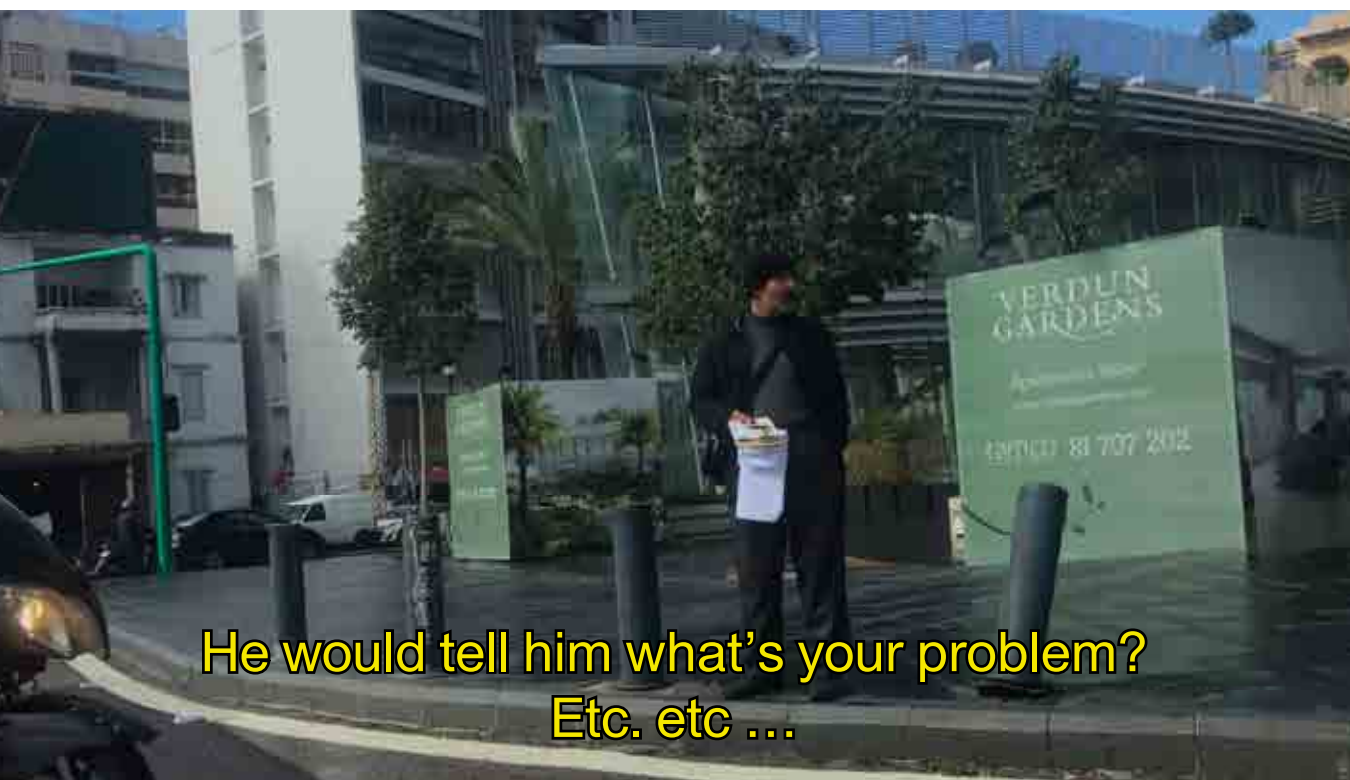




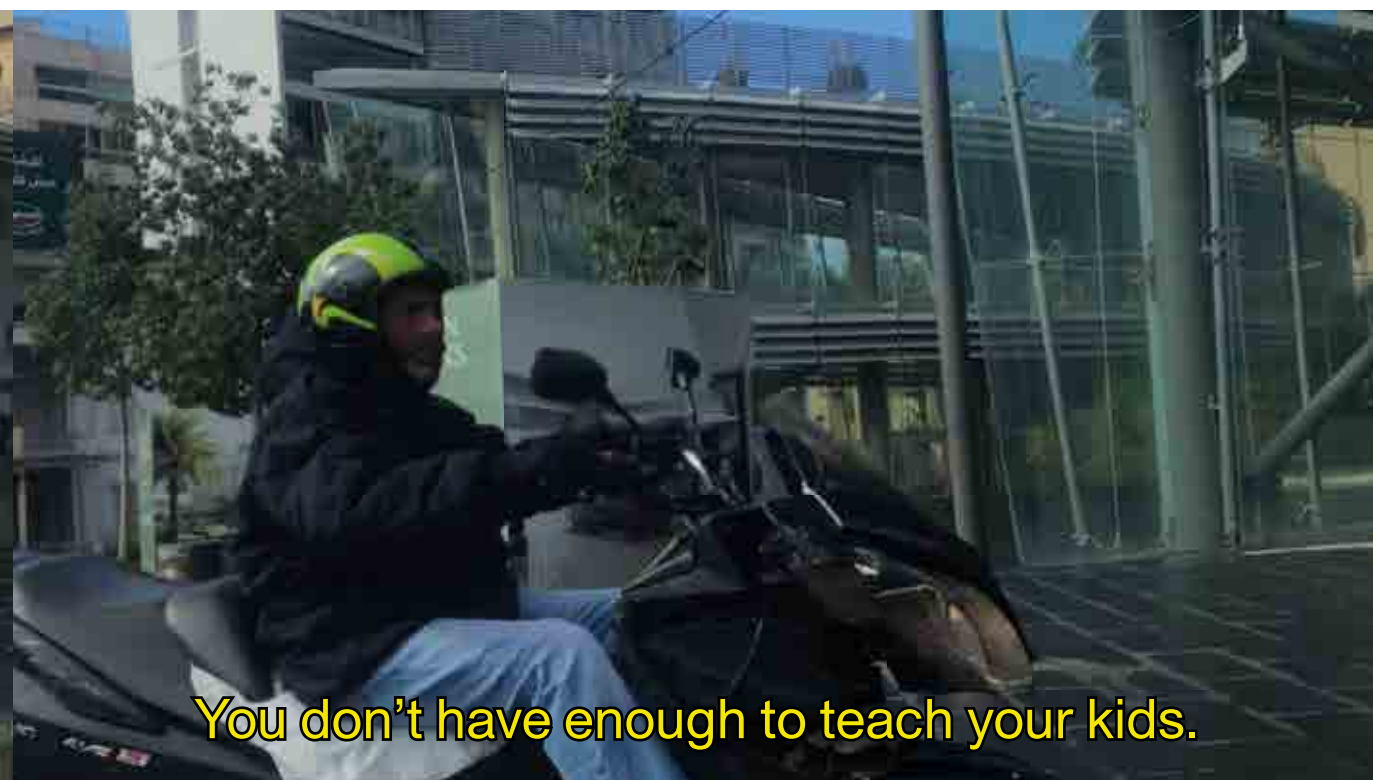
Believe me my son if my neighbor was not good enough his neighbor would knock on his door.



I am giving it to you correct.



He would tell him what's your problem?
Etc. etc ...



You don't have enough to teach your kids.



He tells him if he is okay, here is some money, take it and pay it back when you can.



customer leaving the car

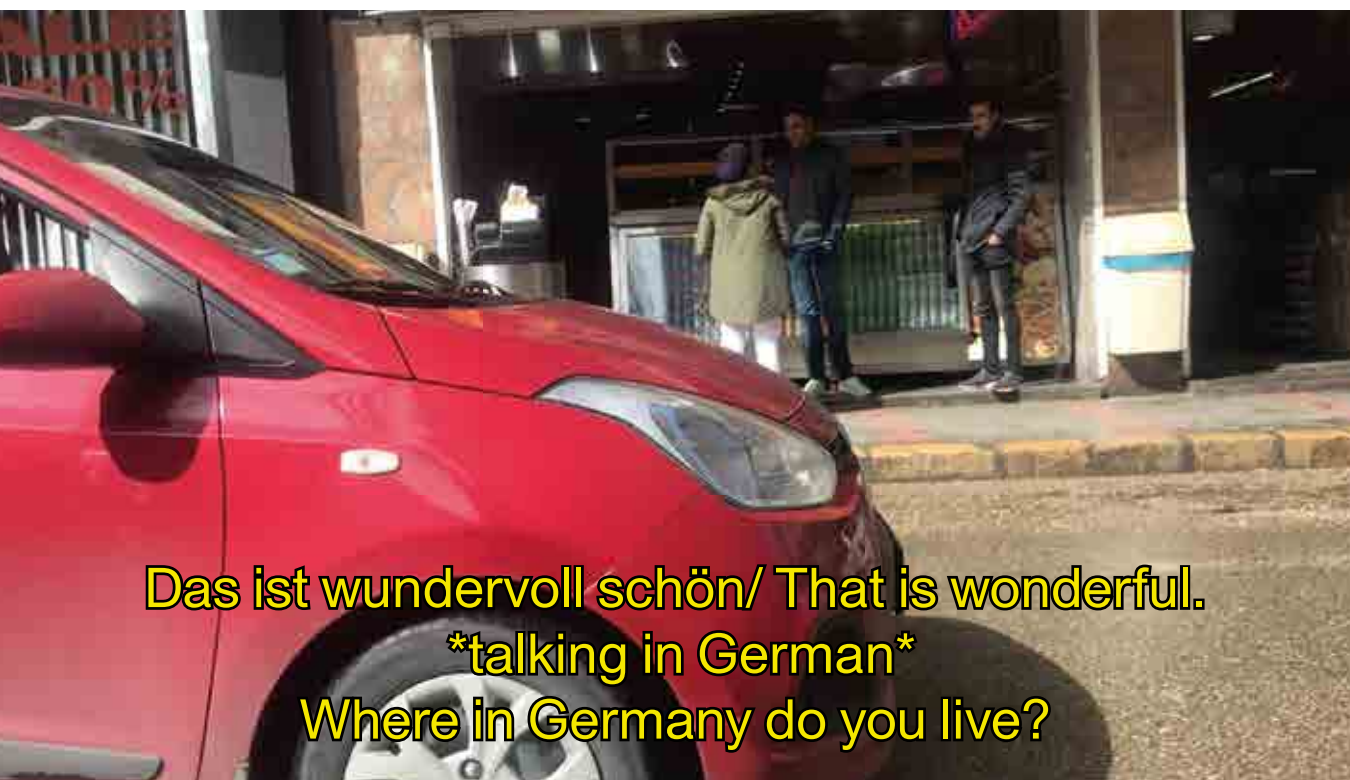


Where do you want to get out?



Bliss.





Das ist wundervoll schön/ That is wonderful.
talking in German
Where in Germany do you live?



Düsseldorf!





1975 when here was the war. *boom, boom, boon*
I left to Germany. I had a nice life in Germany.
How do you like the life here?



It is very nice.



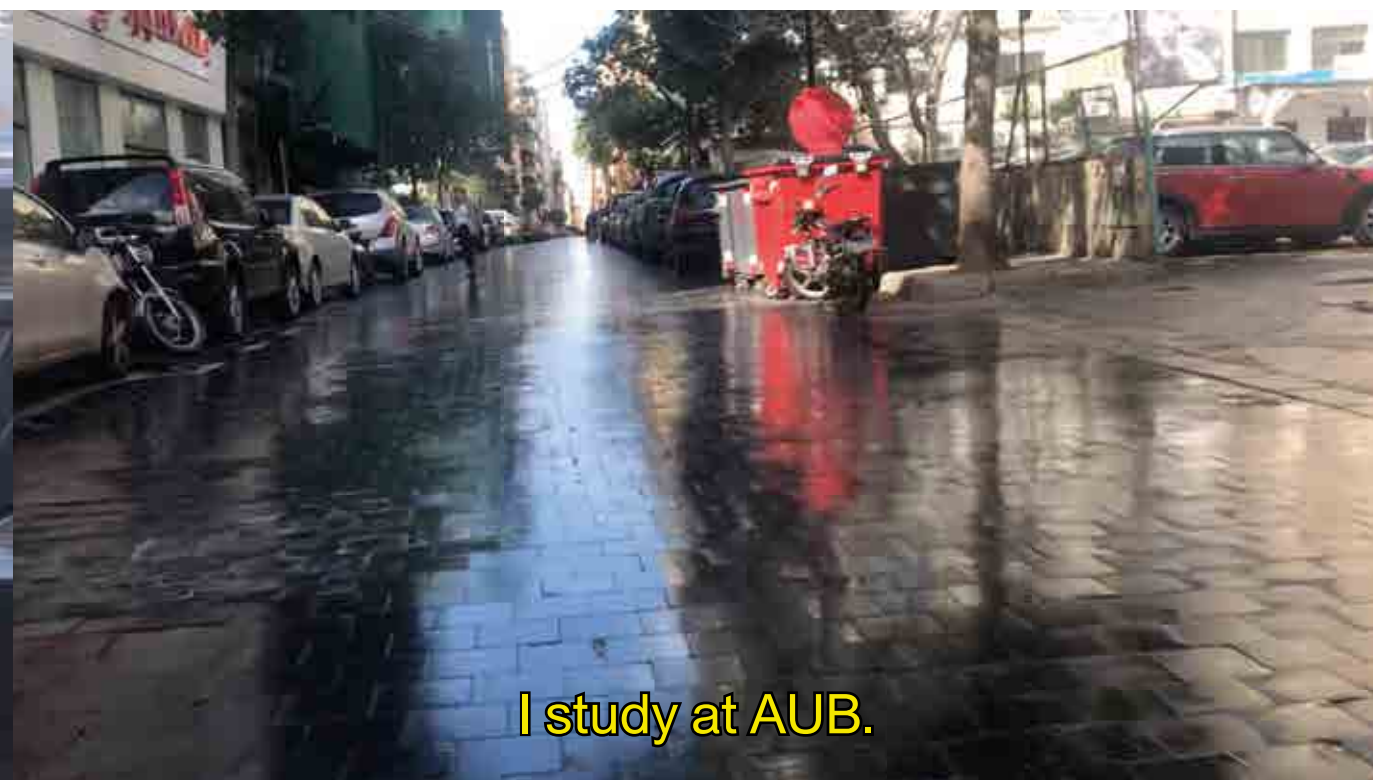
A lot of young people left Lebanon.



And how do you like Beirut?



Beirut is beautiful today but back then there was the war. What do you do here?



I study at AUB.



Why? There is no university for design in Germany?
laughing



Laughing i am only here for one semester.
I need to get off here!



Aufwiedersehen/goodbye



Aufwiedersehen/goodbye



Mach's gut/Take care

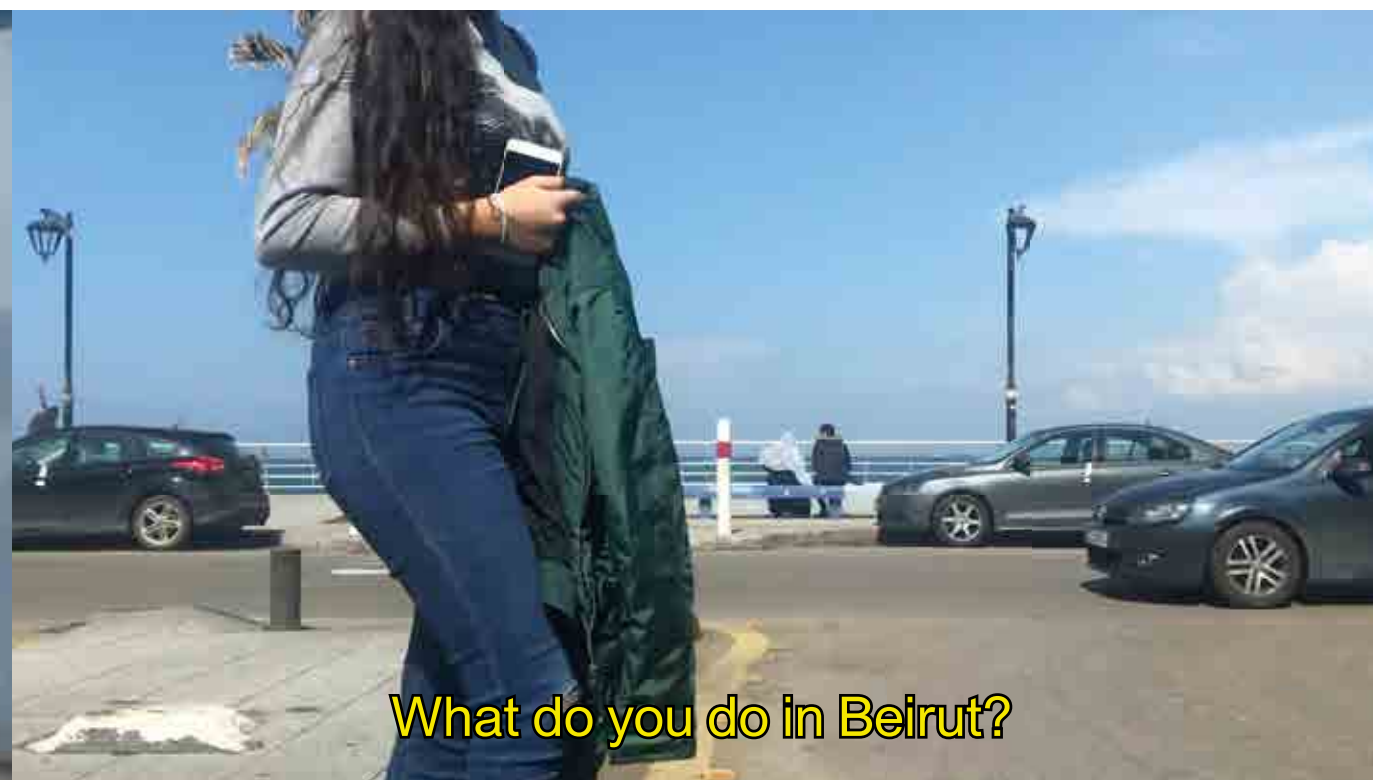


Gemmayze?





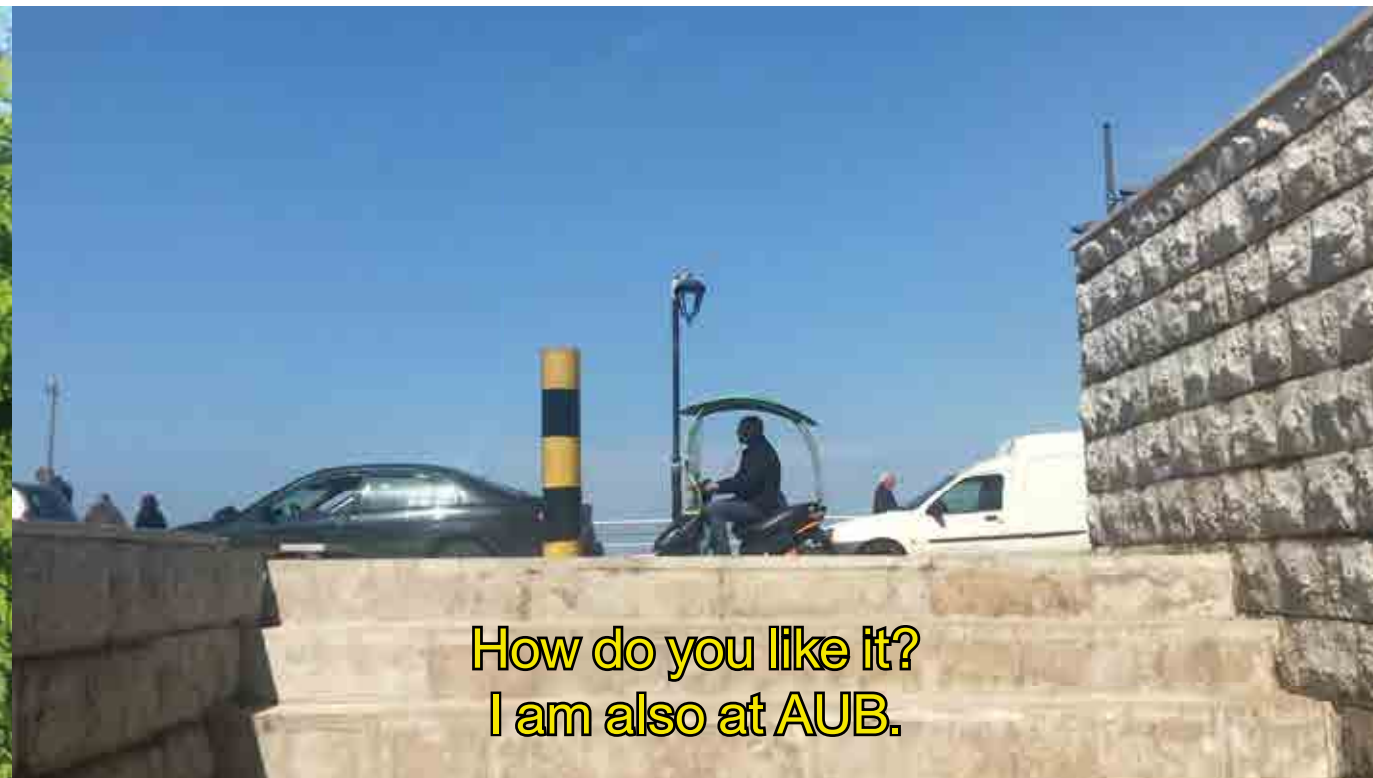
I am from Syria.



What do you do in Beirut?



I study at the American University.
I study office management.



How do you like it?
I am also at AUB.



Very nice! *laughing*
I got a scholarship.

Wow, nice and since when
are you in Lebanon?



We came two years ago. All my family.
And you?



I study here for
some months.

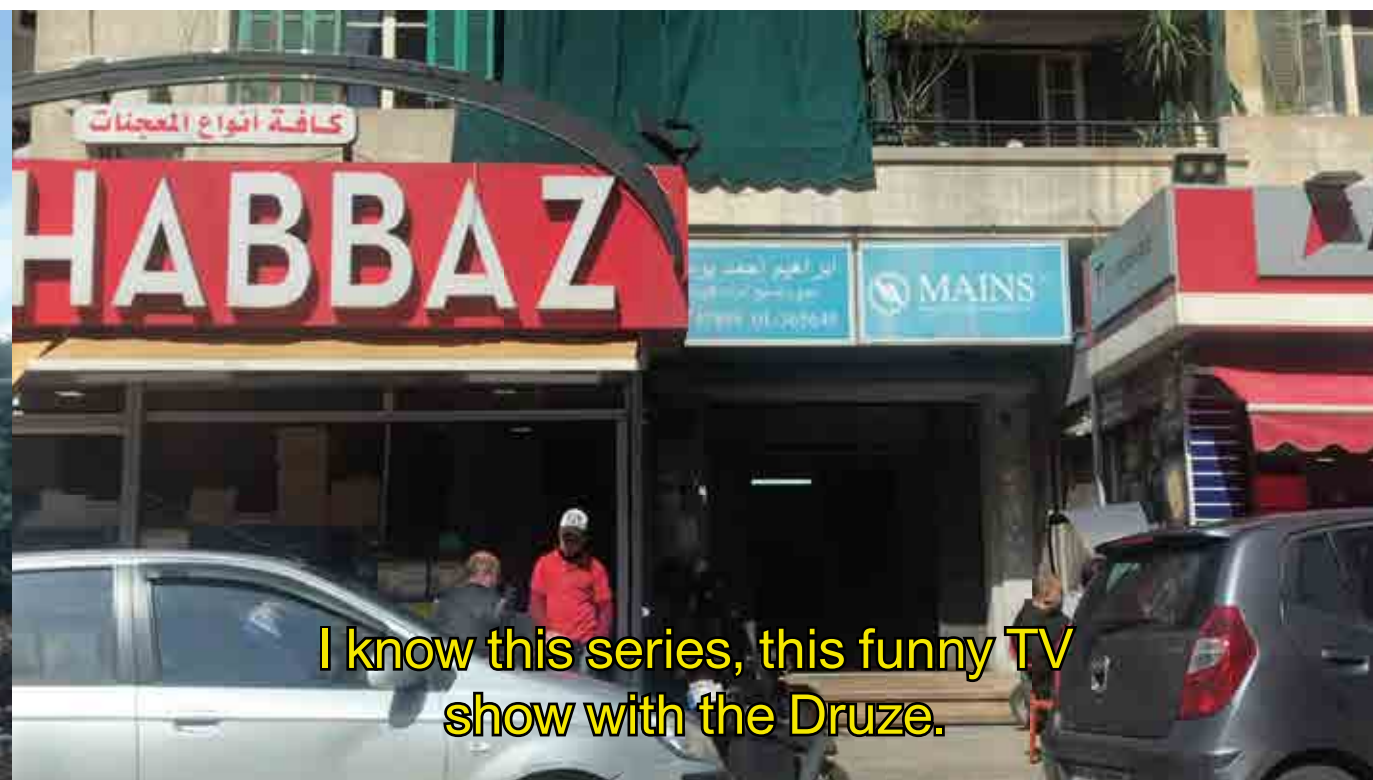


Taxi driver asking the girl where she is from

Where are you from in Syria?



I am from Swayda.



I know this series, this funny TV show with the Druze.



laughing
You mean »dayaa, dayaa«!



My friend told me that the Druze community
is very open minded!



laughing

Yes, yes, they are very kind and nice.



Taxi driver asking for my name

My name is Janna.



Do you understand Arabic?



Very little, little, little.



The driver wants to sing for you!



Okay, I guess I am ready.



Taxi driver starting to sing
He sings about his love, to come back to him.



laughing
Another song about love!



laughing
Yes!



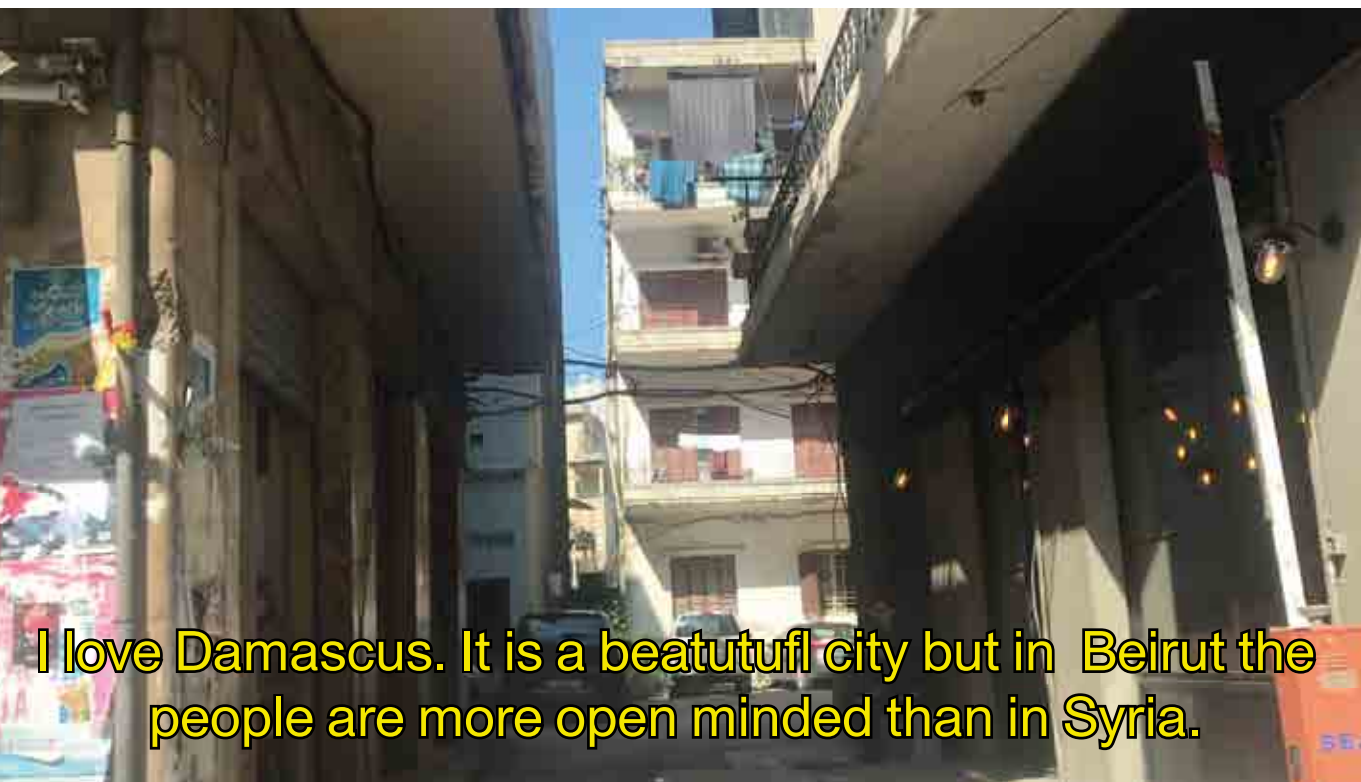
Did you also study in Syria?



Yes, in Damascus but here it is better.
Especial at AUB.



Why do you prefer
staying here?



I love Damascus. It is a beautiful city but in Beirut the people are more open minded than in Syria.



How are people more open minded in Beirut?



Open minded with chothing, relationships.
Like in Swayda, the Druze and my family.



Taxi driver asking for the girls' name



My name is Senna. The taxi driver says that you are very nice and funny.



I am getting afraid, now.
Can you stay with me in the car till Gemmayze?



I wished I could. *laughing*
 Taxi driver talking and yelling



What did you tell him?



He takes care of you, he said. He is like your father.
Don't worry, he is very nice.



What 7abibi?
Taxi driver talking and yelling



He says if anyone will look at you
he will kill him.

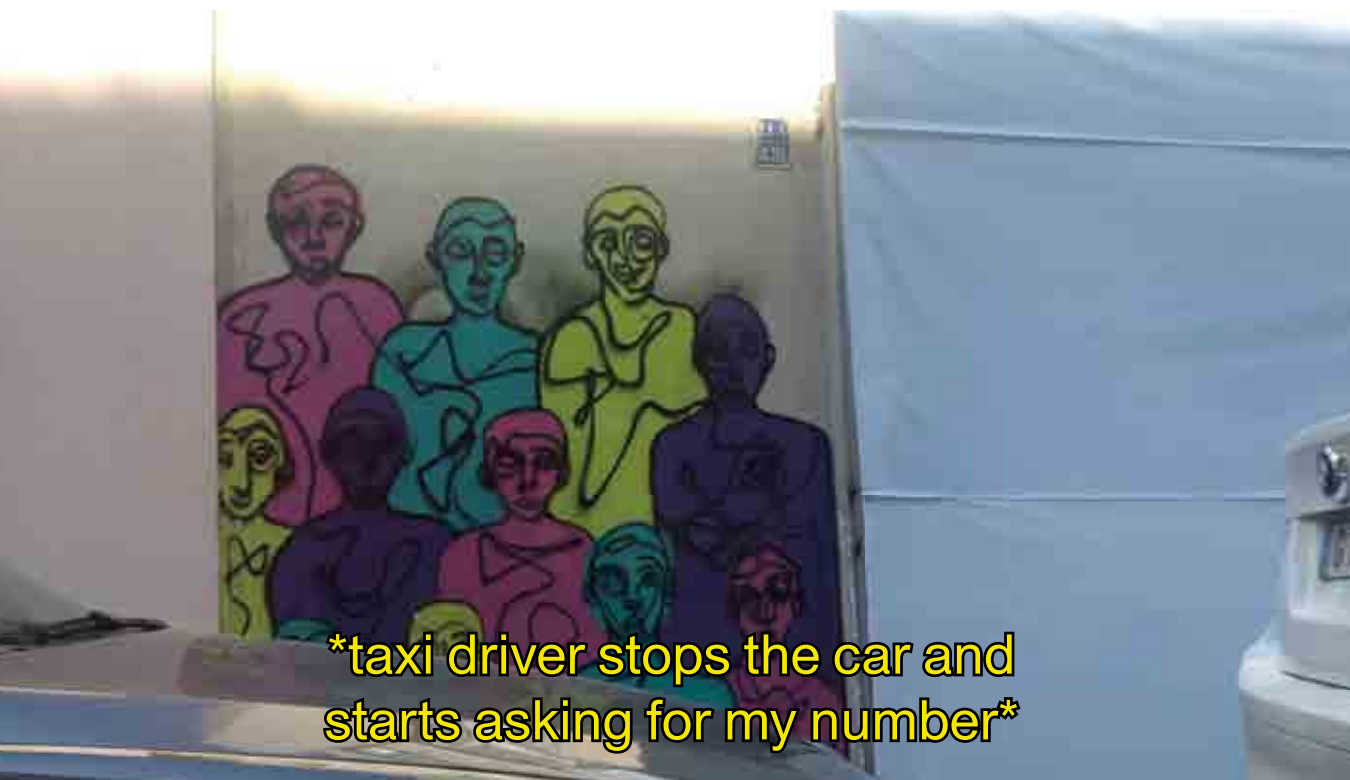
Okay!
nervous laugh



girl getting out of the car



It was nice to meet you!



taxi driver stops the car and starts asking for my number



Giving the driver my Lebanese number







Bye, Jannah,
my friend!



Hey!
Seeing a familiar face



Hey! I know you from AUB,
what do you do here?



I am a visiting student. You work
at the cafeteria, right?



I am a stuff and a student
at AUB.



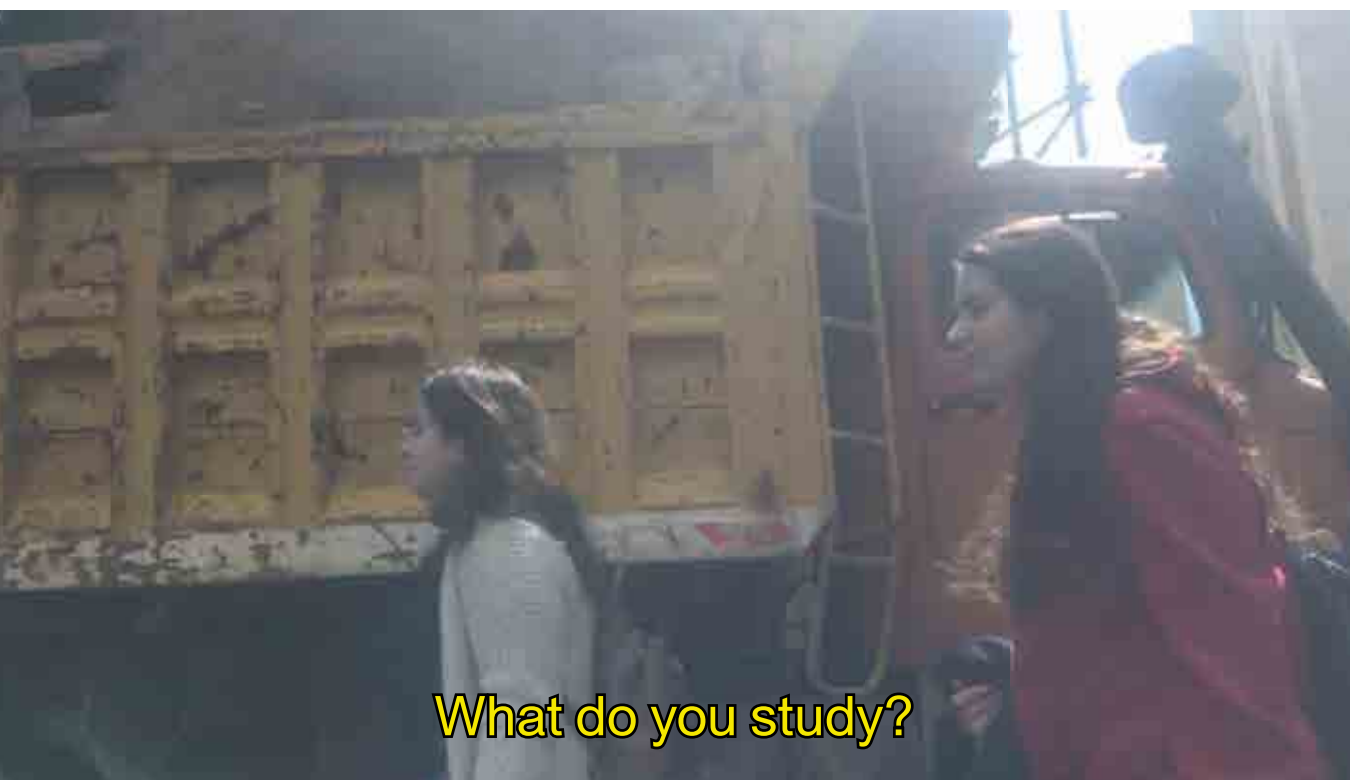
Both at the same time?



I work as a cashier, and I am in my masters in telecommunication.



Girl from the backseat joining the conversation



What do you study?

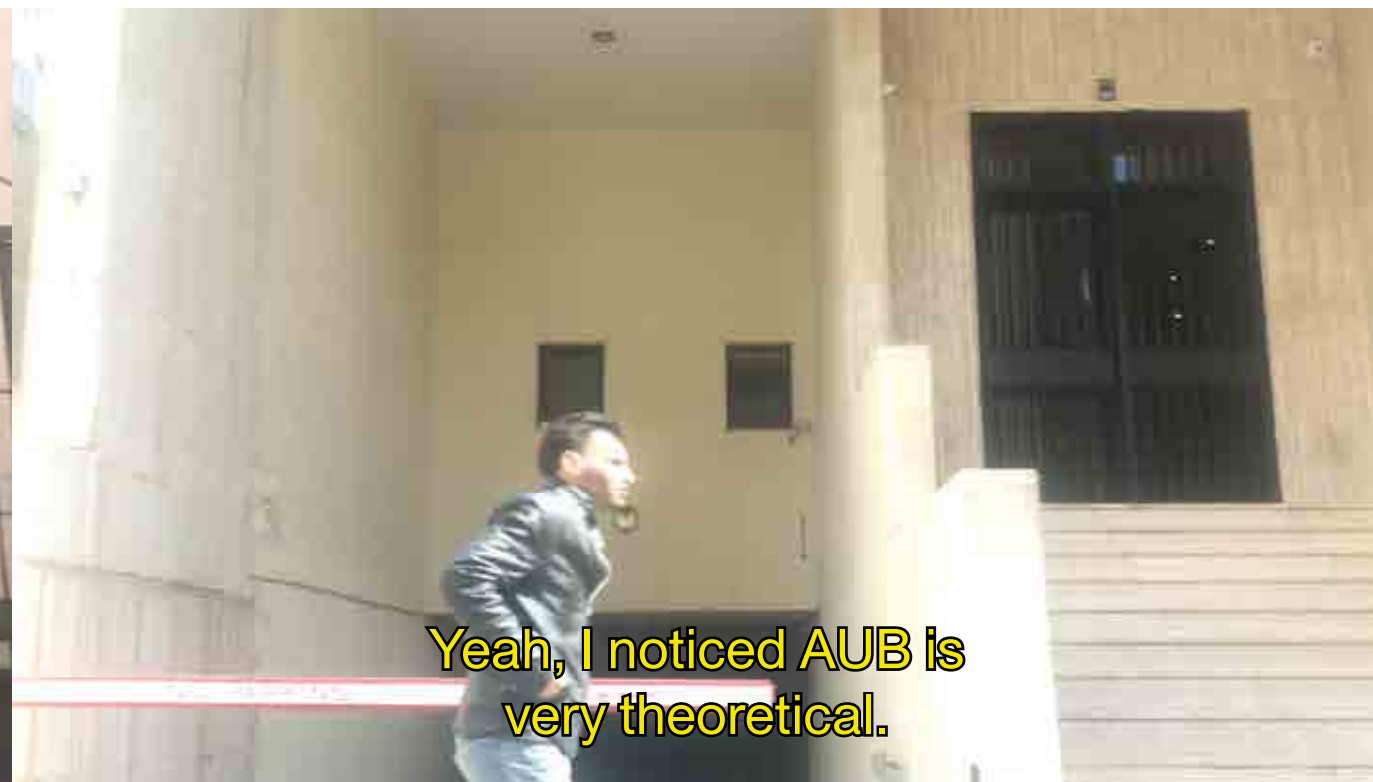


I study design and you?





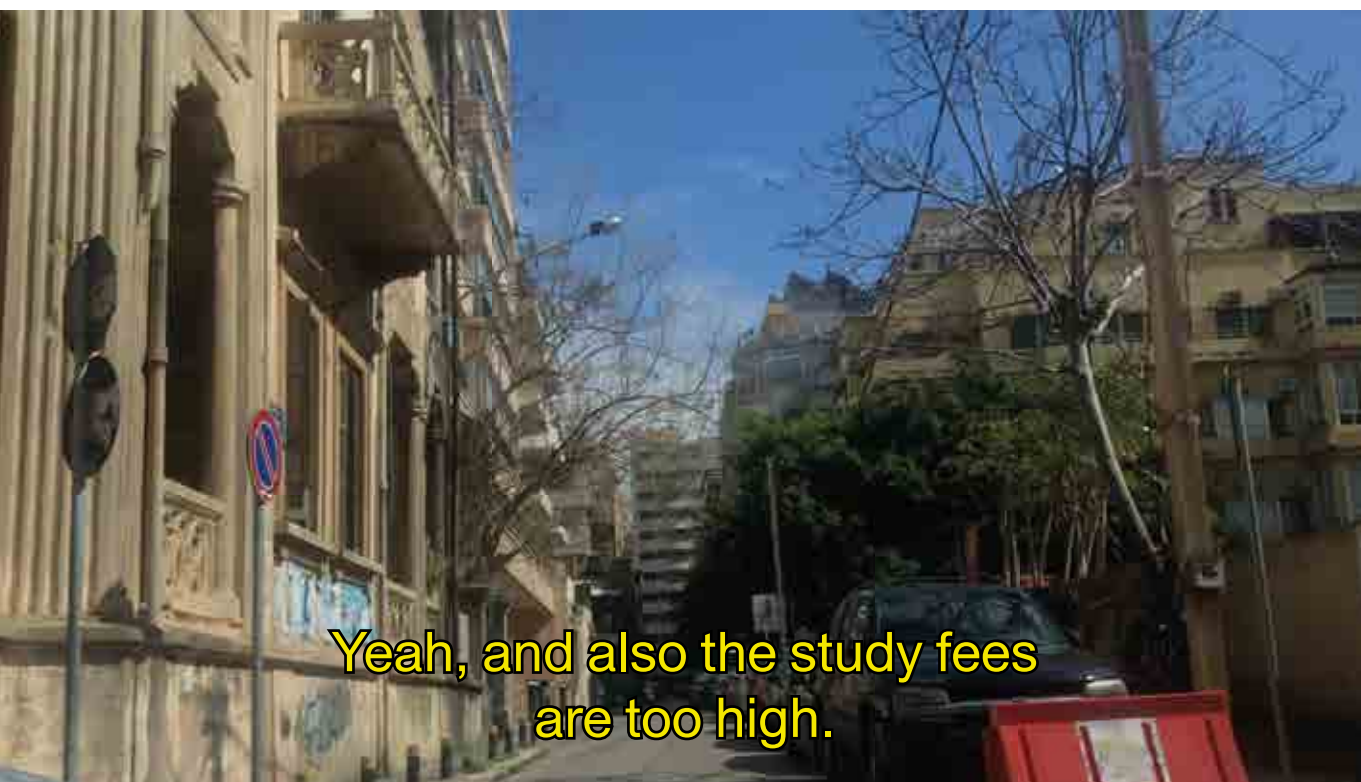
No but I also like environment and health
and there is no art or performance at AUB.



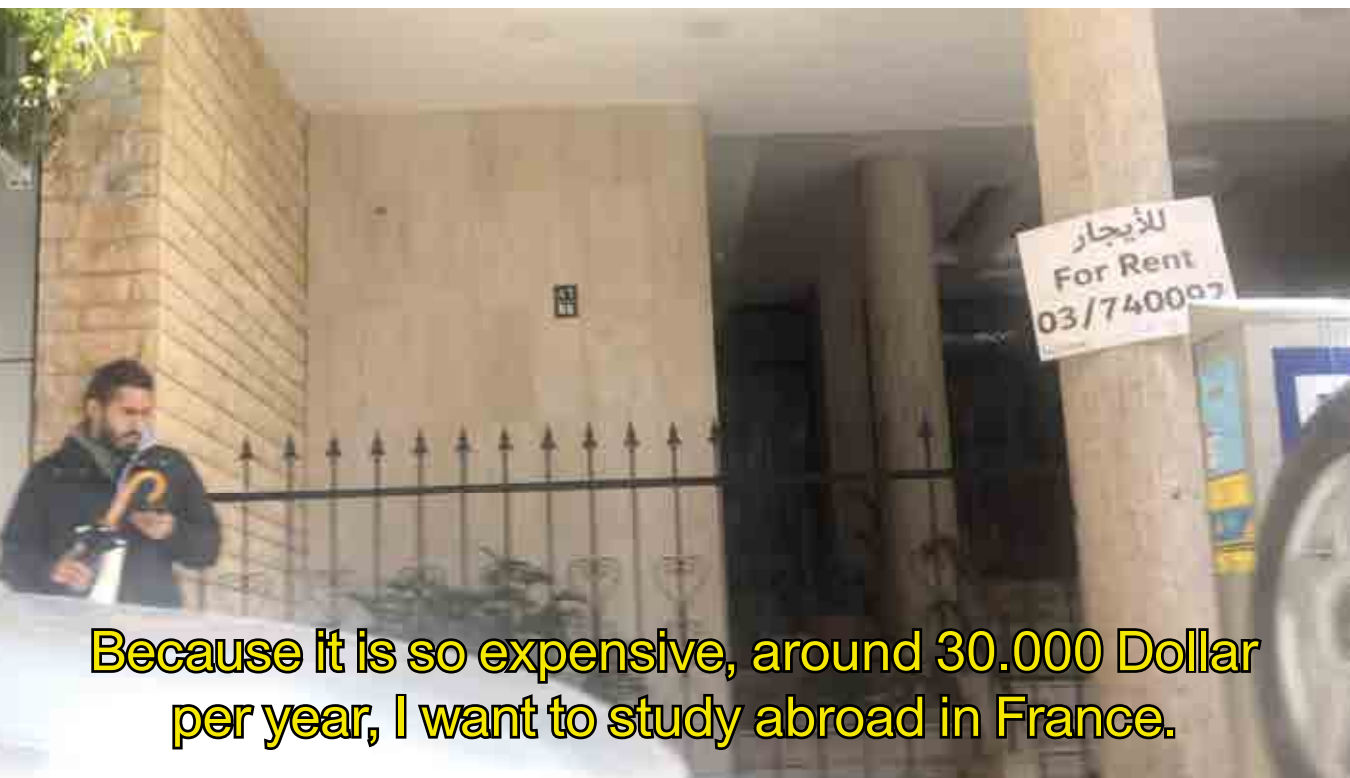
Yeah, I noticed AUB is
very theoretical.



That's one thing
people don't like about AUB.



Yeah, and also the study fees
are too high.



Because it is so expensive, around 30.000 Dollar per year, I want to study abroad in France.



That is too much money.



Yeah, it has advantages and disadvantages.



tfaddaleh/please
Girl getting out of the car



Guy getting back to our conversation
But you enjoy Lebanon?



Yes of course.
I have been to Tripoli, Baalbek ...



I am from Baalbek.
Did you like it?

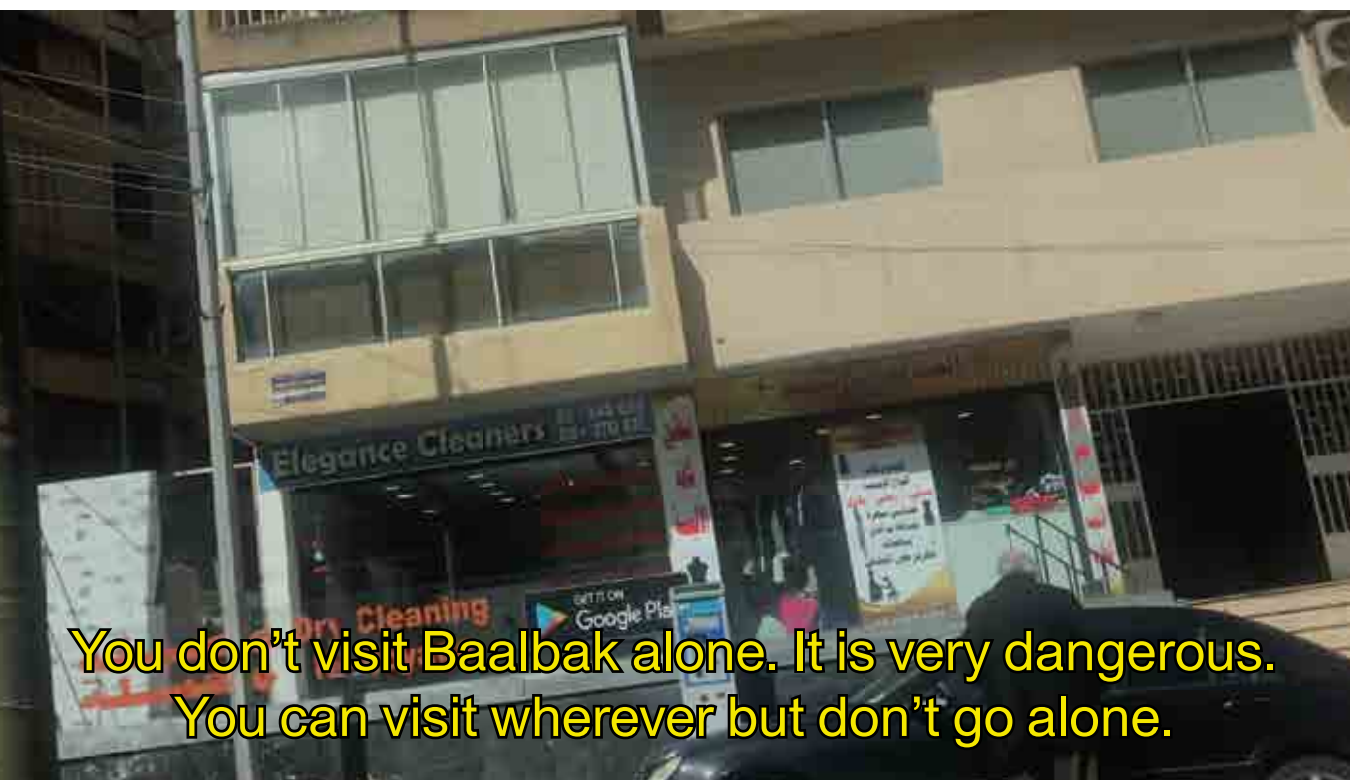
You know, I was there by myself,
it was a little bit rough.

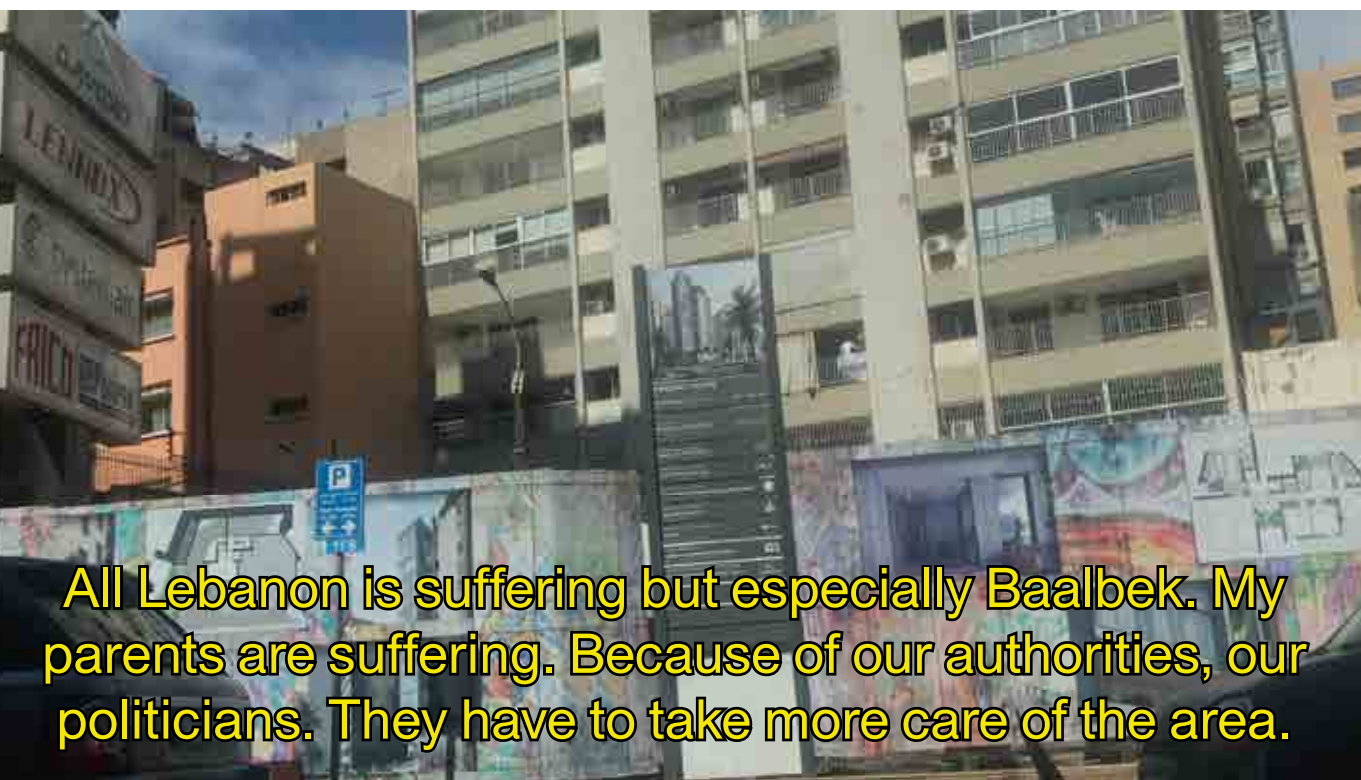


Look Baalbek is cheap and the weather is good.
The issue is only security.



I was walking there and
then a kid came with a gun.





All Lebanon is suffering but especially Baalbek. My parents are suffering. Because of our authorities, our politicians. They have to take more care of the area.



Do you still want to go back there after your studies?



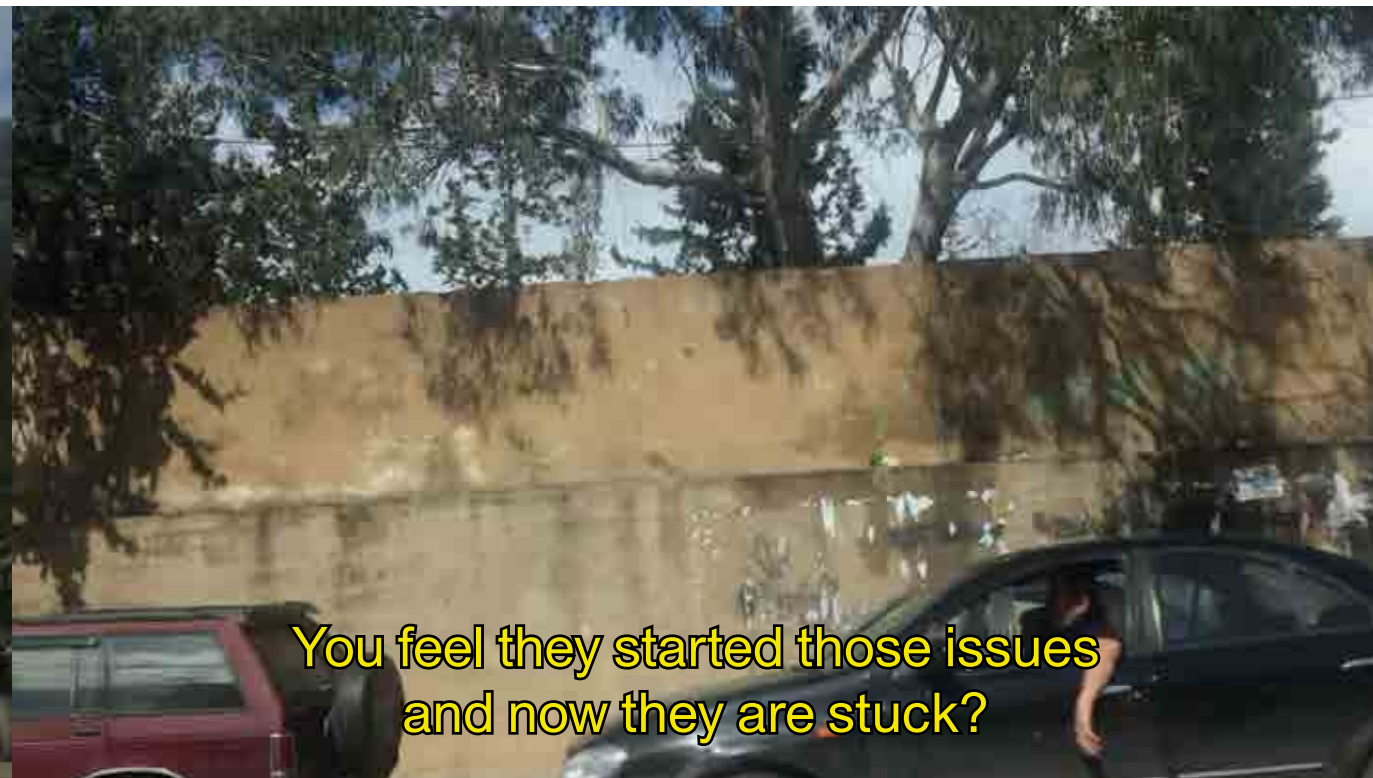
No, no, Beirut has more opportunities.
In Baalbek we don't have jobs.



Why do you feel Beirut is so different?



Beirut is the capital is has to be like that. I tell you something. All religions were combined, everyone loved everyone. Druze, Sunni, Shia but politicians separate us, they played a game with us.



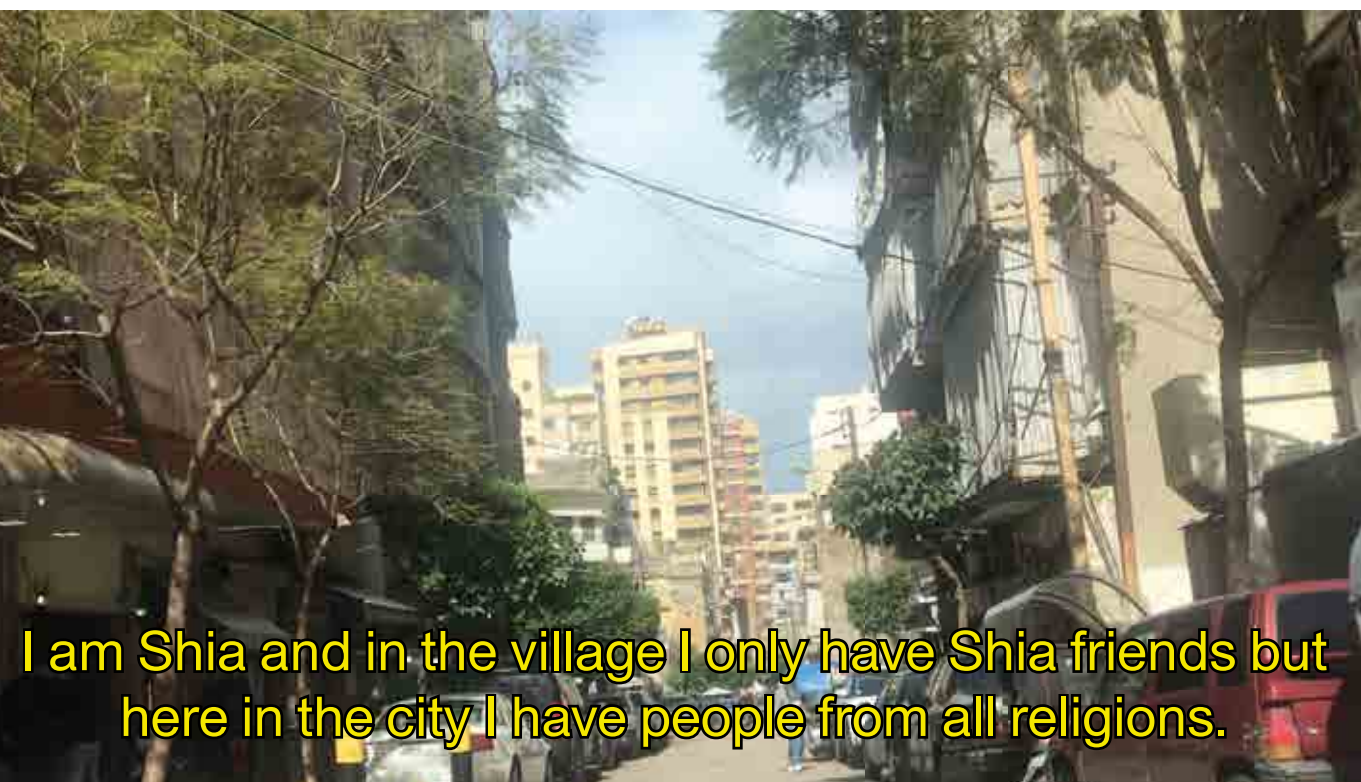
You feel they started those issues and now they are stuck?



Since France left Lebanon the politicians play with religious issues and start to separate us. And they say Christians hate Muslims. We still suffer from Civil War. We lost about 200.000 people.



Mh.
And you personal?



I am Shia and in the village I only have Shia friends but here in the city I have people from all religions.



Taxi driver talking



Villages are more close minded.
Shia people live here, Sunni people live there.

Here in Beirut some areas
are also seperated, no?



The borders are more unknown.
You don't have this issues?



In Germany, Syrians have been coming,
so we are also Christians and Muslims.



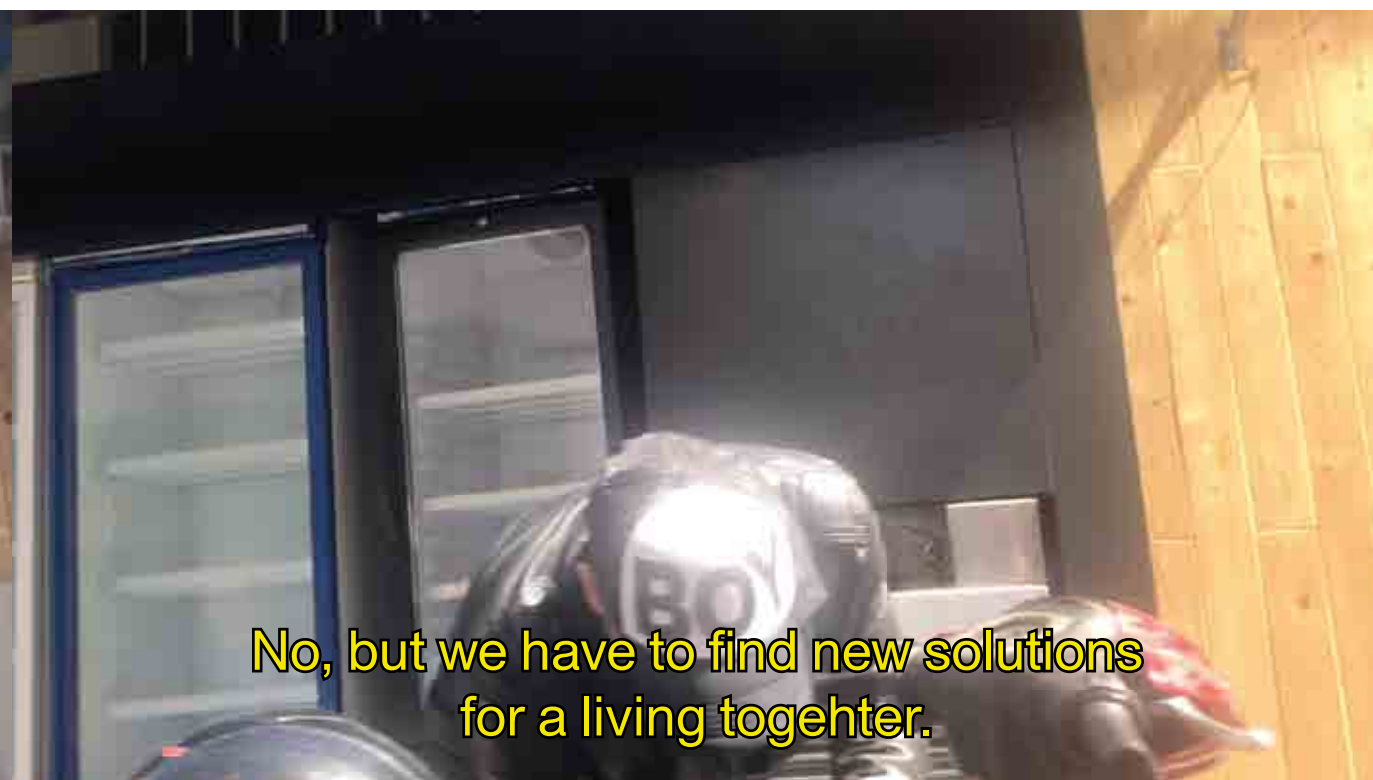
It is a very big problem.



Not for me. This is why I am here,
I am very interested in culture and society.



It is a very big problem.
Many Syrians. Are they making problems?



No, but we have to find new solutions
for a living together.



Oh, yes, yes.



benzal hon/I need to get out here.
Nice to meet you and see you at AUB!



Yes, yes, nice to meet you.
Bye.



AUB?



Jannah?
My daughter is also Jannah!



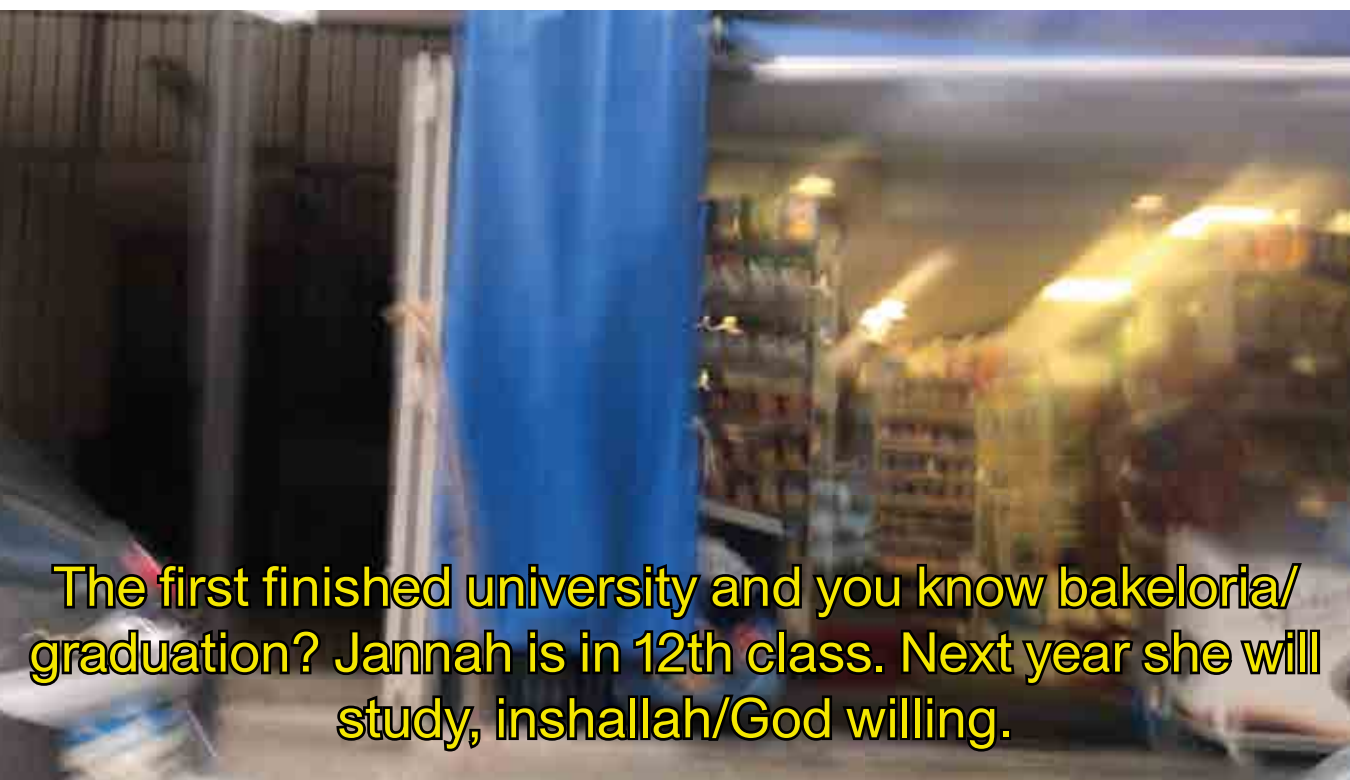
Oh nice!



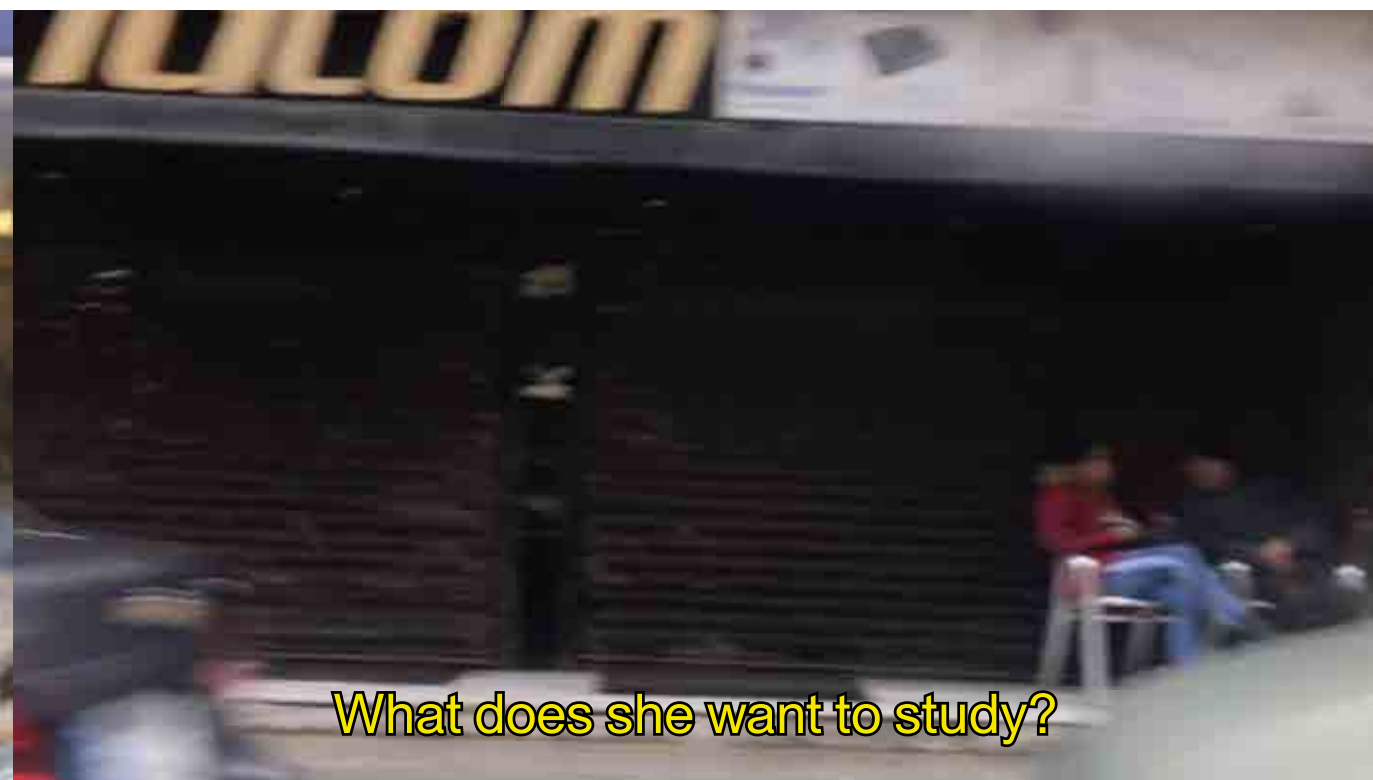
Showing me pictures on the phone
I have two girls Jannah, Dania and
two boys Mohammed and Ali.



They look very madumiin/cute!
What do they do?



The first finished university and you know bakeloria/ graduation? Jannah is in 12th class. Next year she will study, inshallah/God willing.



What does she want to study?



Business.
Sorry, I speak little English.



It is okay,
I understand.







For 15 years, I live in Mar Elias.
My father already had a house there.



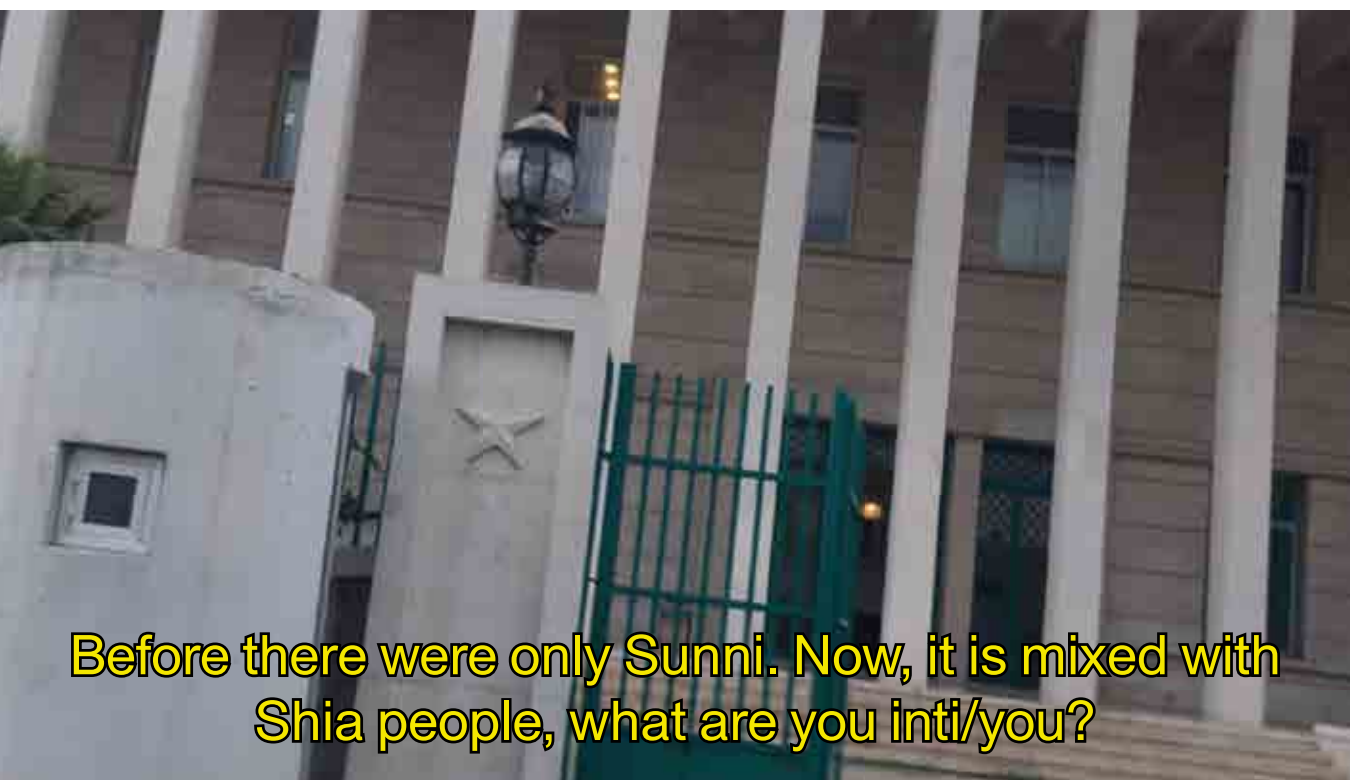
You like Mar Elias?



In Mar Elias are many shops, clothes, people ...



Mostly Sunni people are there, right?



Before there were only Sunni. Now, it is mixed with Shia people, what are you inti/you?



I am Christian.
inta/you?



Sunni ...
And what is your country?



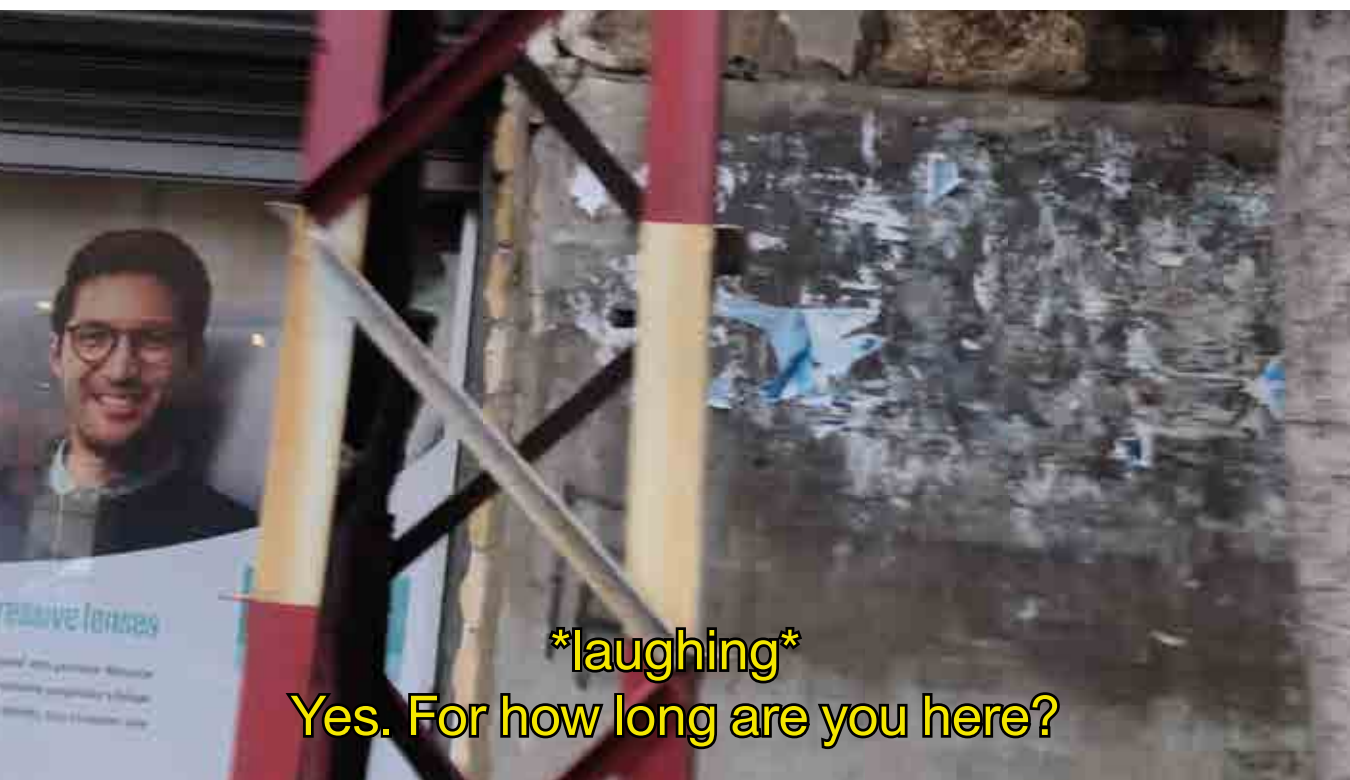
Germany!



I like Football in Germany, Bayern Munich,
Mönchengladbach, ...



laughing
You know all of them!





Have you traveled in Lebanon?
Did you visit Jeita, Faraya ...?



Yes,
Sunday I went to Batroun.



Gibran Basir is from Batroun.
A politician!



Do you like him?



laughing

All politicians, Shia or Sunni, don't work for Lebanon
only for outside. Hisbollah for Iran,
Sunni for Saudia Arabia.



Silence



Showing me another picture
This is from 1985. 1982 Israel came to Beirut.



The picture was during the war?



Yes, 1982 Israel came to Beirut.



Sorry, sorry. Can you drop me here?
At the main gate?





tfaddeleh/please.
min wein inti/where are you from?



ana almaaniyeh/
I am German.





ahla w sahla/welcome.
You bte7ki/speak 3arabi/Arabic?



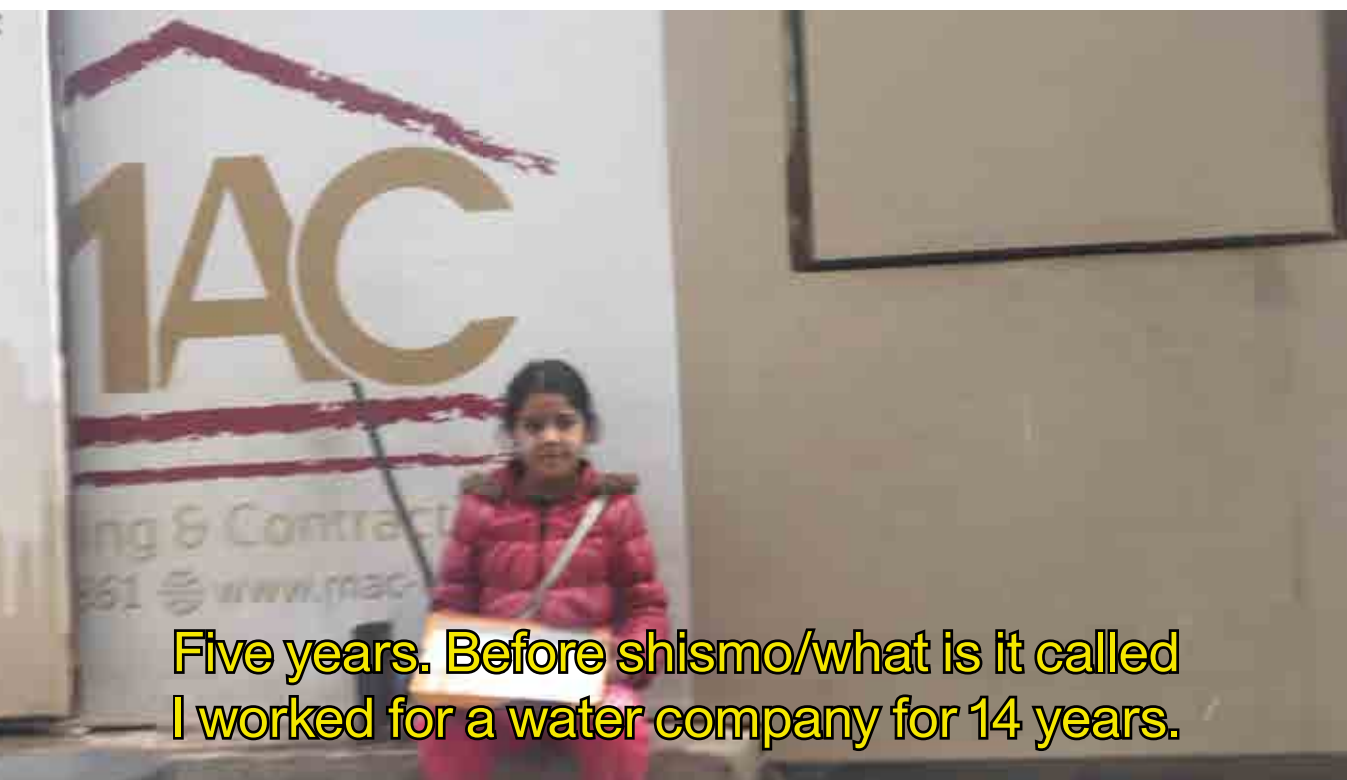
reading name sign
ismo/your name is Mohammed?











Five years. Before shismo/what is it called
I worked for a water company for 14 years.



How is your job?



There is not enough money
for taxi drivers in Lebanon.



It was always like that?



Before it was better. But now, not anymore.
For how many years are you in Lebanon?



I am here for three months.



shu bta3mili/
what are you doing here?



tilmiizeh bi L jama3 AUB/
I am a student at AUB



Eiwa/oha.
And are you mjawwazeh/married?



misch mjawwazeh/not married bas/but I have a
Lebanese boyfriend. ismo/his name Jamil.





Mh.



And you,
do you have 3ayleh/family?



Me? 3andi/I have
two boys and one girl.



Big or small?



One boy in afri'a/africa and one boy
mjawwaz/married. My wife and my binti/my girl
are with me bi L/in Beirut.



And you work everyday?
And always in Hamra?

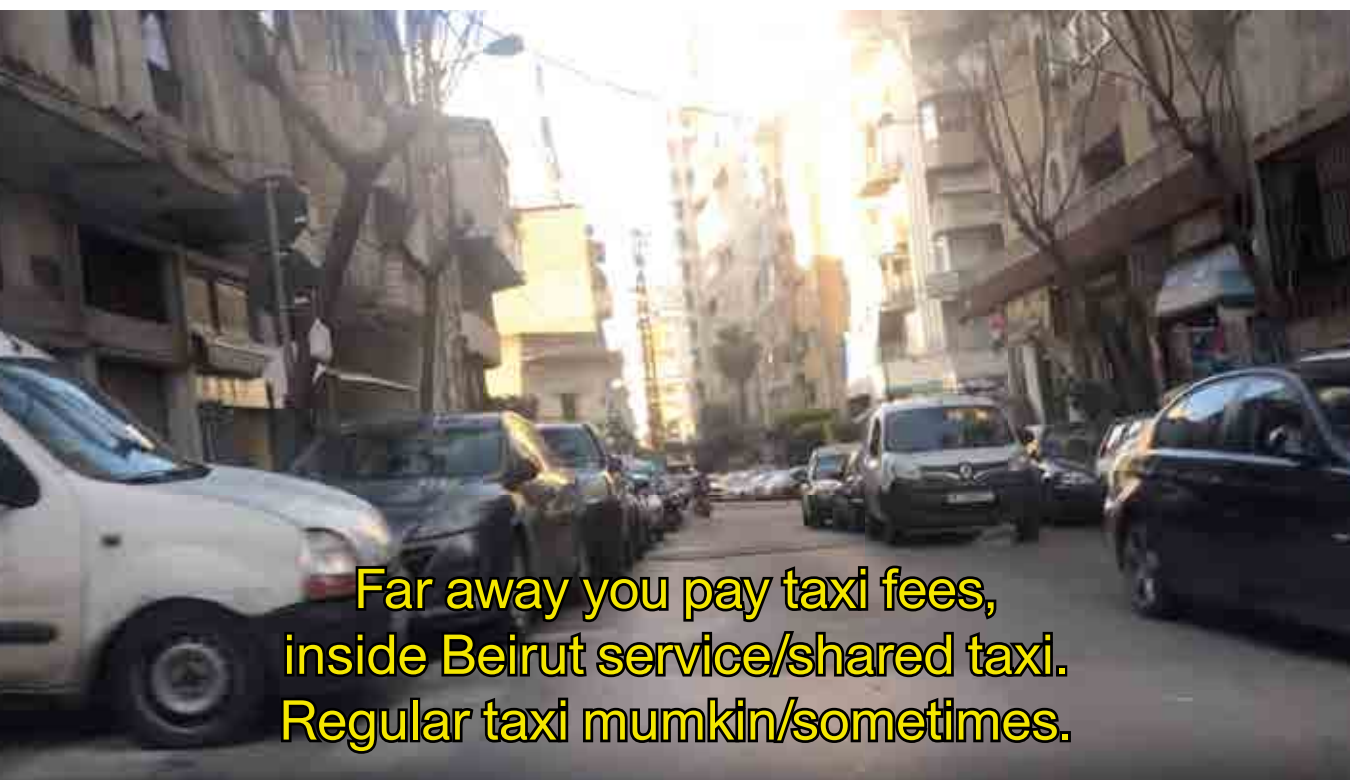


Anywhere! If you tell me let's go to Baalbek tayeb/fine.



The first in the service/taxi decides where to go?





Far away you pay taxi fees,
inside Beirut service/shared taxi.
Regular taxi mumkin/sometimes.



Mh. Okay.



You like Lebanese?



Yes, I mean my boyfriend
is Lebanese.



And ba3den/after?



ana ma ba3ref/
I don't know.





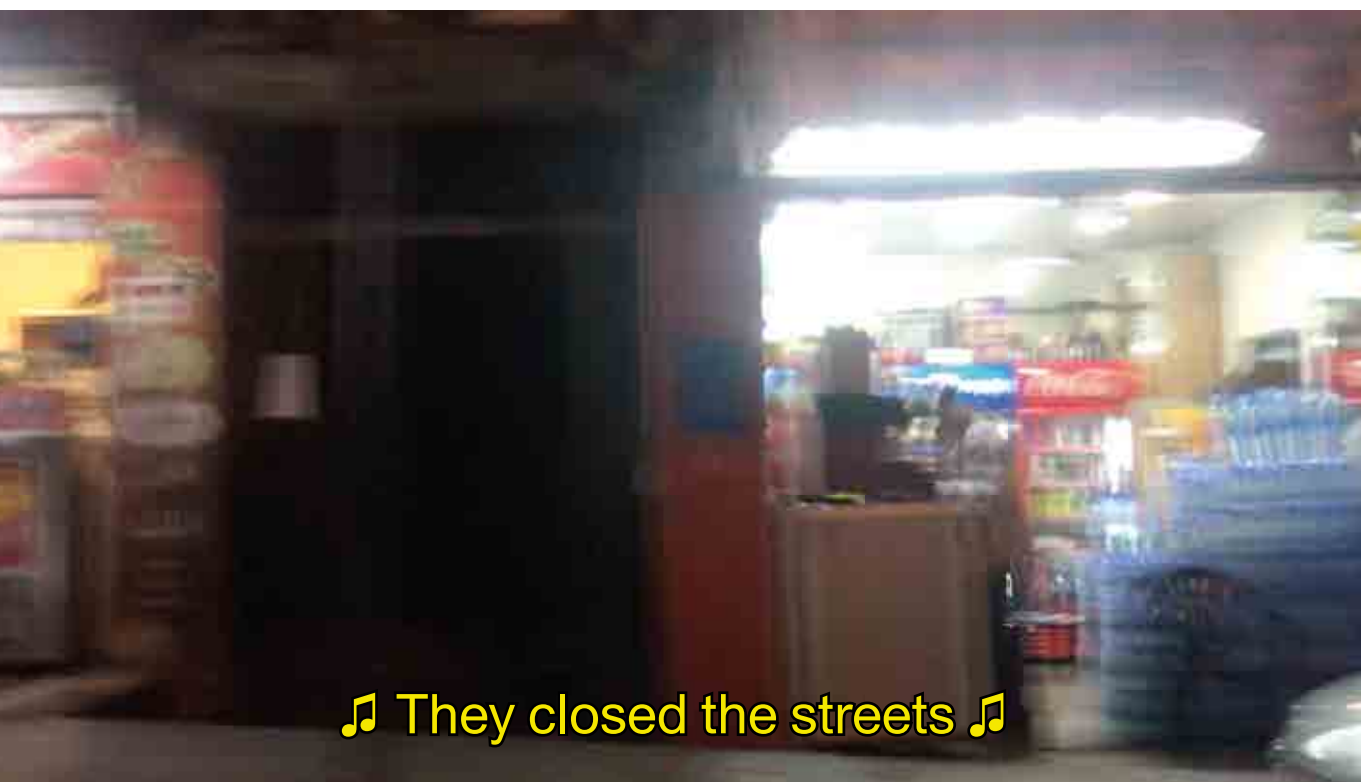
ana be7eb Lebnan/I love Lebanon.
My area is Baalbek but no work there.



Wait, wait. benzal hon/
I need to get down here.









♪ They planted the cannons ♪



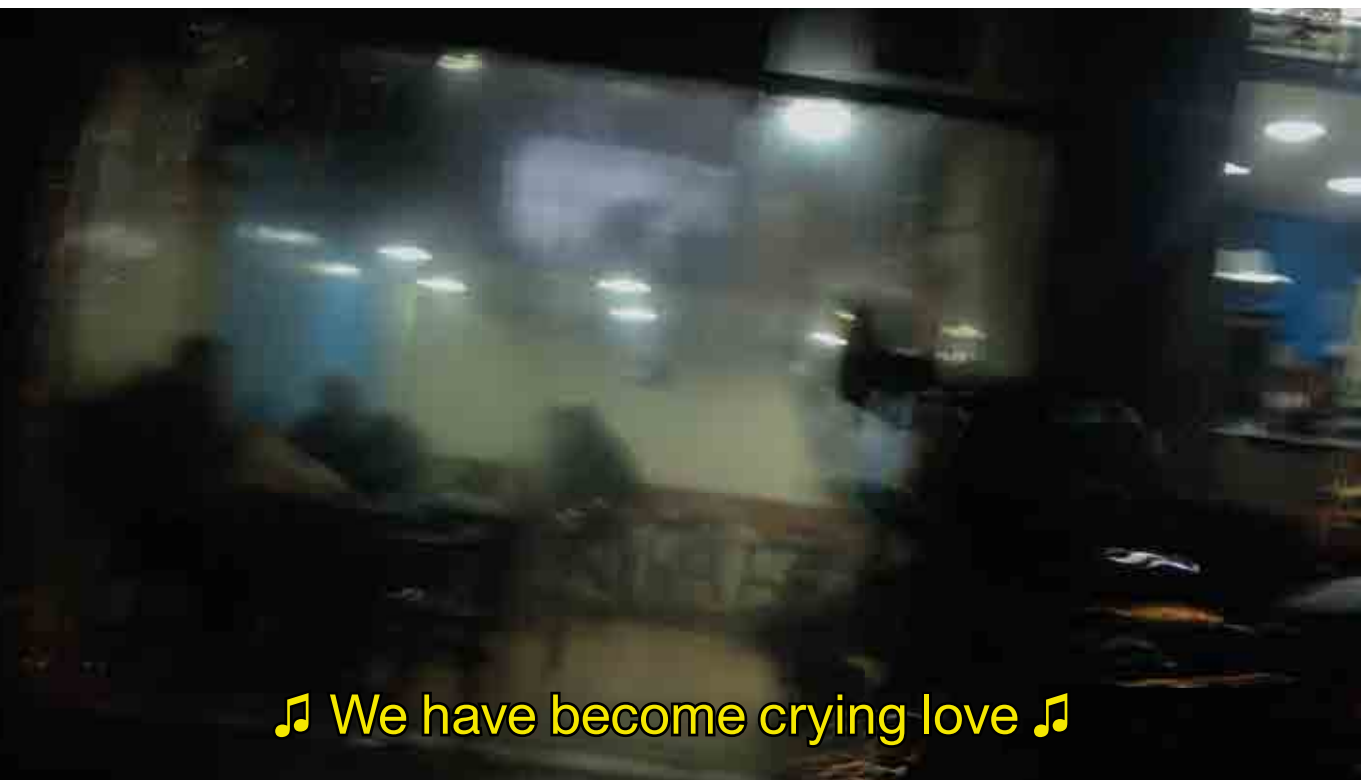
♪ They mined the places (squares) ♪



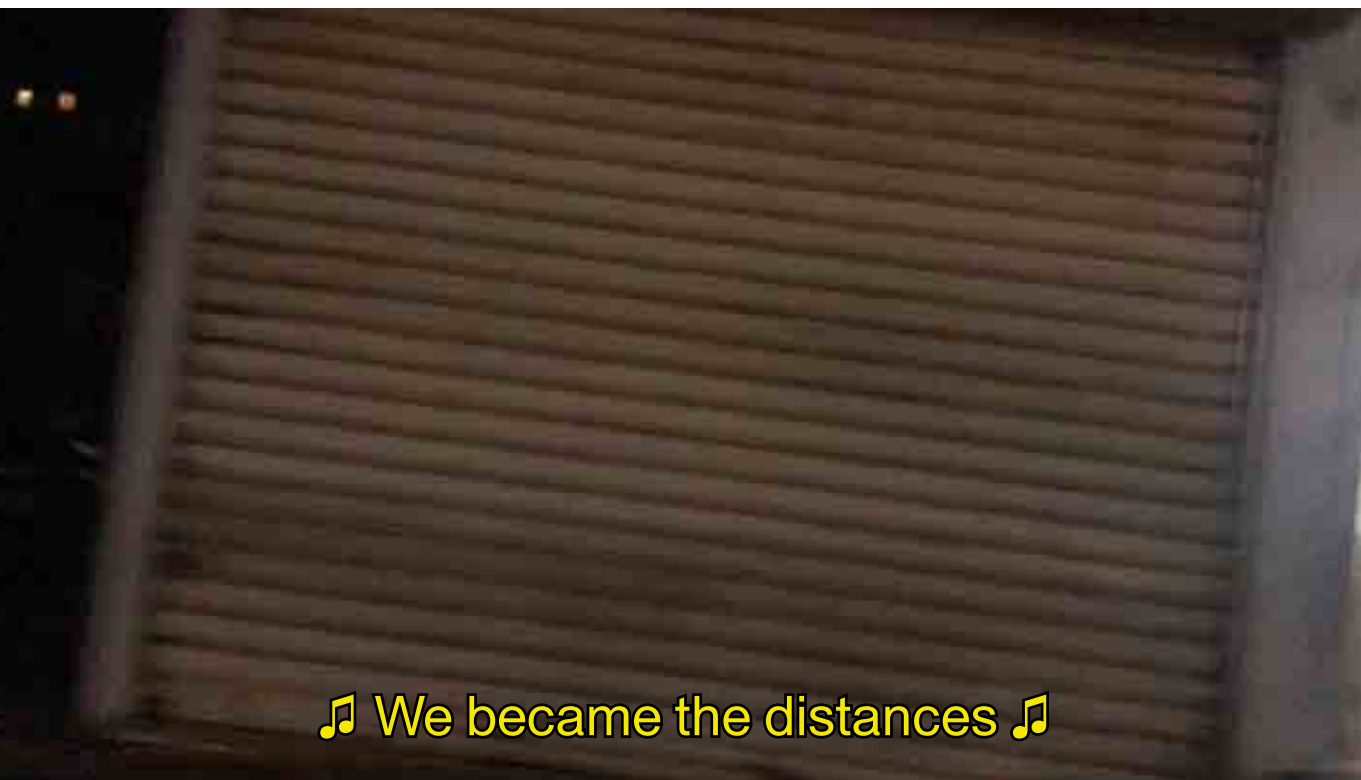
♪ Where are you my Love ♪



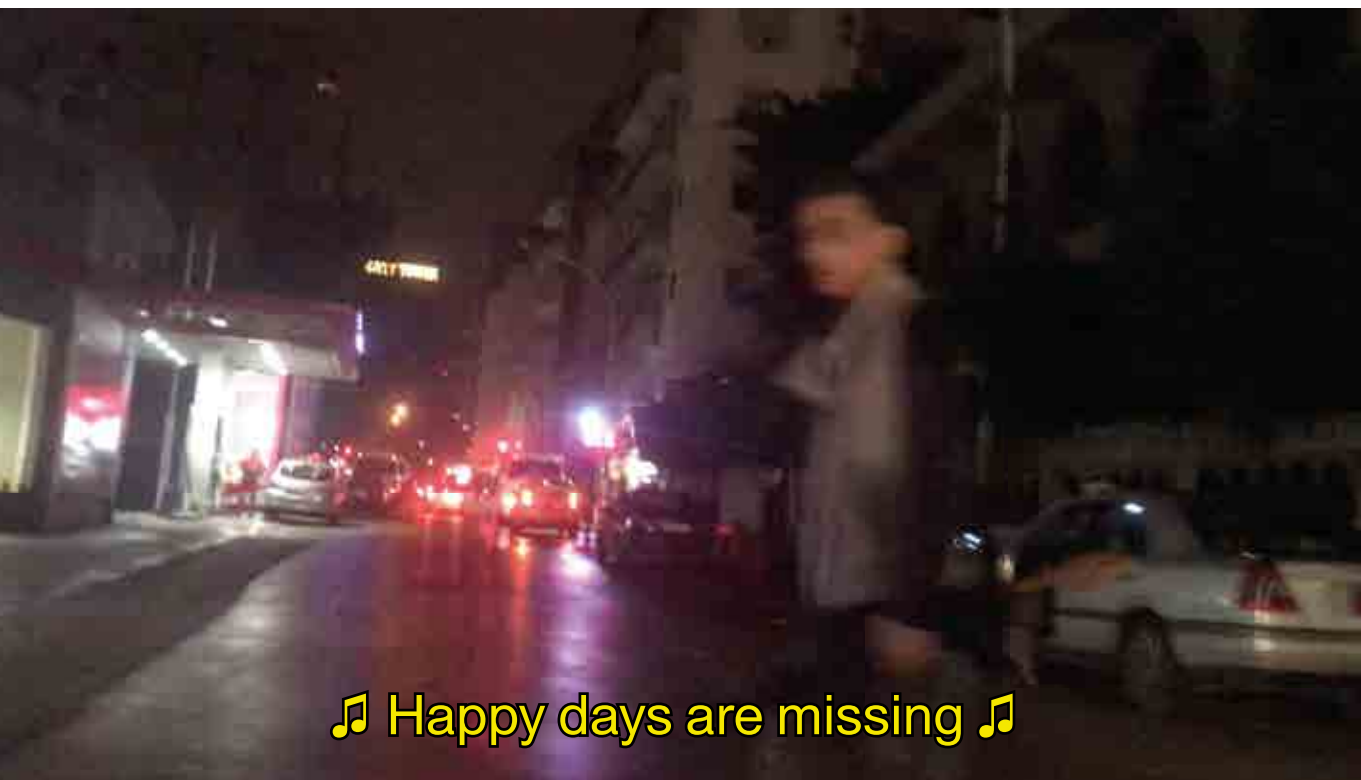
♪ After you my love ♪



♪ We have become crying love ♪



♪ We became the distances ♪



♪ Happy days are missing ♪



♪ Night nights in the streets ♪



♪ Traffic jams and long walks ♪



♪ And the reunion in the old restaurant ♪



♪ Oh love of Beirut, oh love of the beautiful days ♪



♪ Come back Oh Beirut and the past will come back ♪



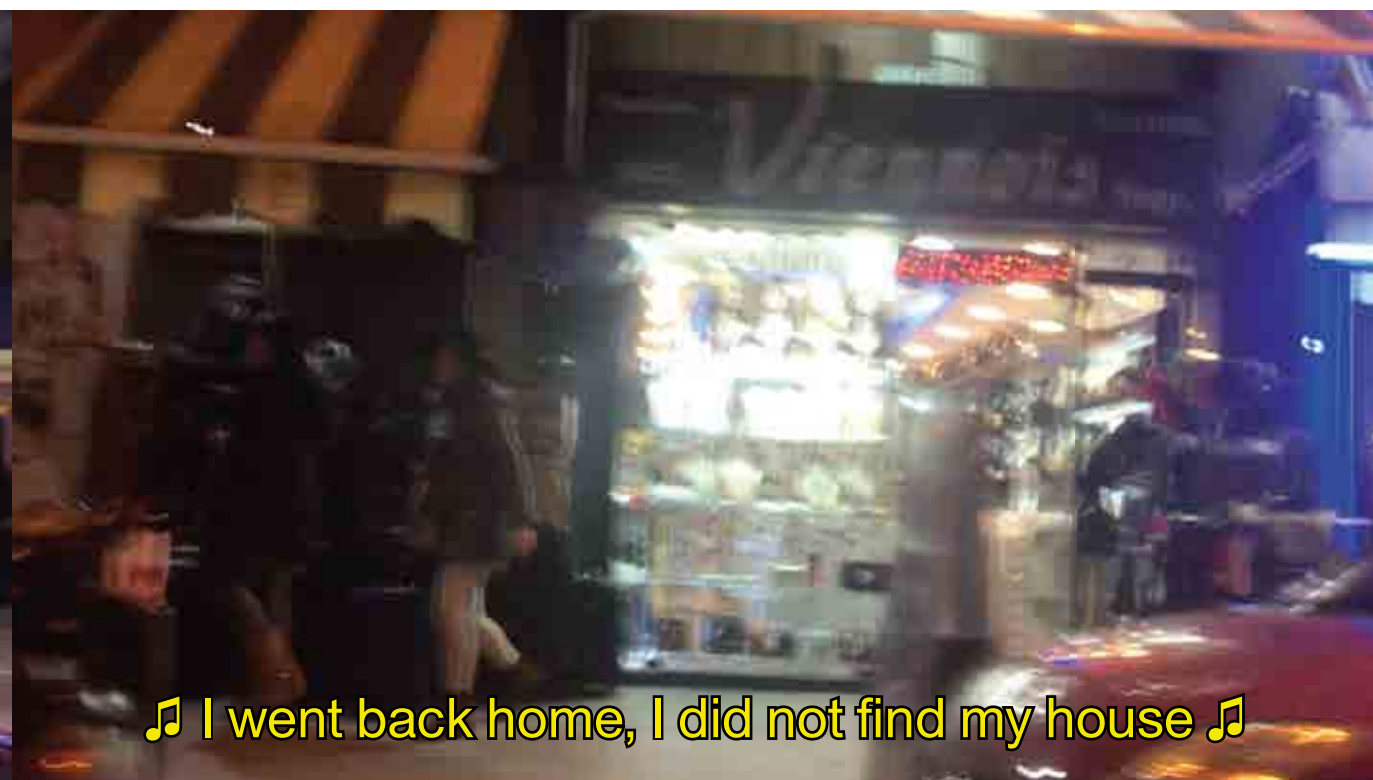
♪ The summer after is back ♪



♪ And the moon is broken ♪



♪ Will you forget me, oh my furious love ♪



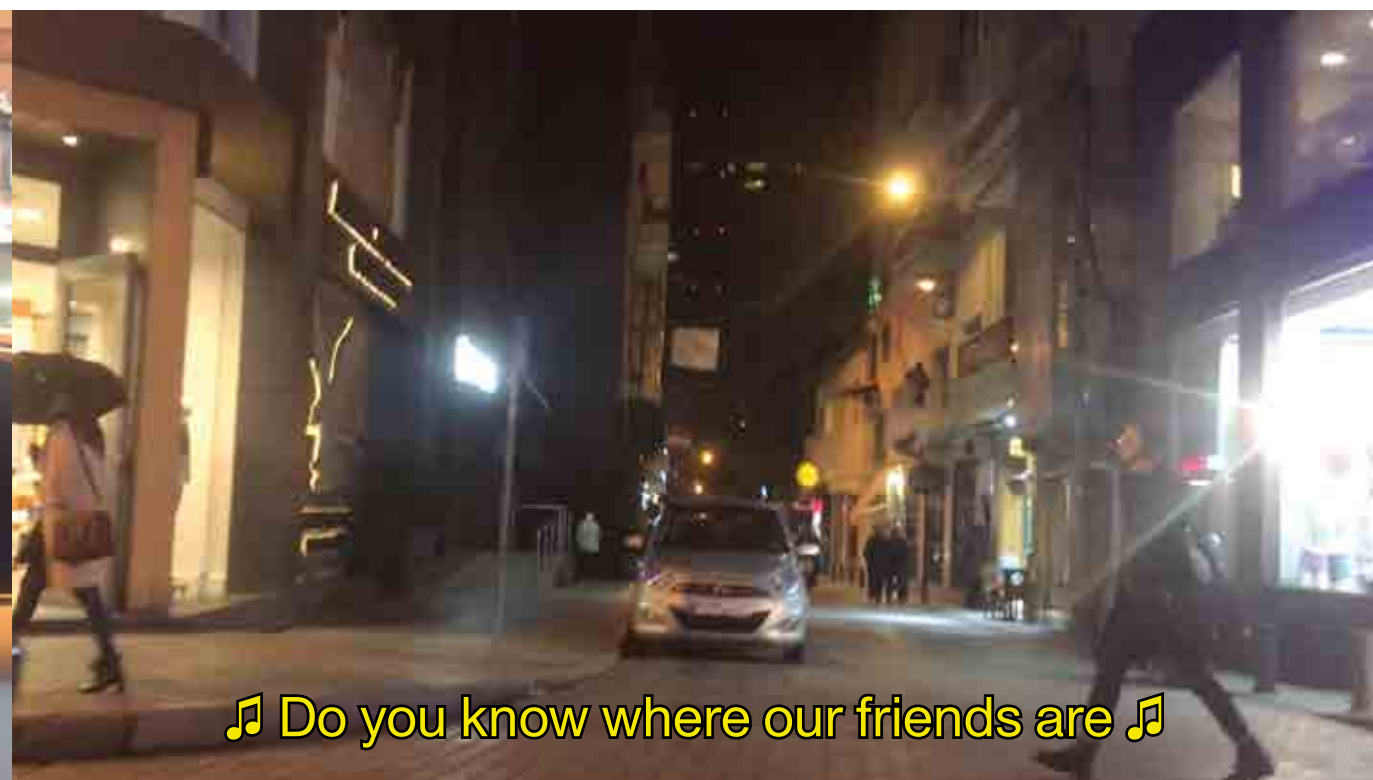
♪ I went back home, I did not find my house ♪



♪ Only smoke and corners, no roses, no fence ♪

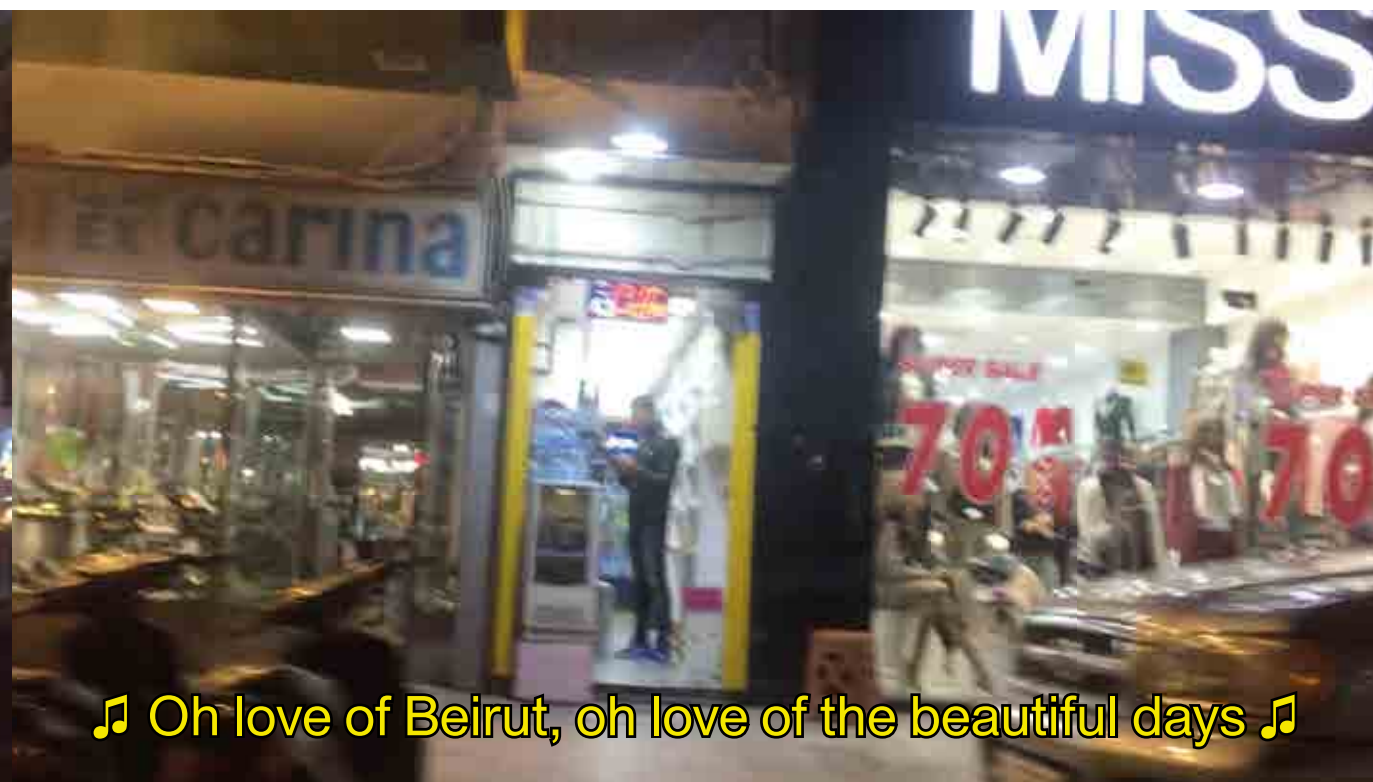


♪ Departures resemble migratory birds ♪





♪ And where are the tears and the tenderness ♪



♪ Oh love of Beirut, oh love of the beautiful days ♪

