

RAMALLAH ARCHIVE

Palestine, 2014

Ahlam Shibli (Palestine, 1970)

Series of 19 chromogenic prints

The work joins files kept at the Ramallah Municipality archive with negatives that were found at the archive, and the contemporary city.

Eleven cardboard boxes were filled with negatives, produced by the Ramallah-based photographer Garo Kuftedjian at his Studio Venus. After his death his family gave them to the Municipality.

The negatives represent individuals and families, often on the occasion of a particular event, a marriage, the arrival of a new baby or a journey. Family photographs are used as testimonies to the completeness of the family; the absent ones may be represented by a photo shown by one of their relatives in the picture. While the photographs expose the individuals' different social affiliations and changes of fashion, the files refer to various periods of Palestinian history: the time under Jordanian rule, the administration by the Israeli occupation forces and the time following the Oslo Accords and the creation of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The photographs point to ways of reorganizing collective and individual existence. One of the main conditions is the lack of space. Stacking, compressing, filling the void connect both the archive and the urban development.

Este trabajo pone en relación documentos que se conservan en el Archivo Municipal de Ramallah con negativos que se encontraron en el propio Archivo y el desarrollo de la ciudad contemporánea.

Once cajas de cartón se fueron llenando de negativos por el fotógrafo con sede en Ramala Garo Kuftedjian, en su Studio Venus. Después de su muerte su familia las cedió al municipio. Los negativos representan tanto personas solas como familias completas, a menudo con motivo de un evento particular: un matrimonio, la llegada de un nuevo bebé o un viaje. Fotografías familiares que se utilizan como testimonios de la integridad de la familia; los ausentes se hacen presentes por medio de una fotografía que muestra uno de sus parientes.

Mientras que las fotografías muestran las diferencias en las relaciones sociales y los cambios en la moda, los documentos de archivo se refieren a períodos concretos de la historia palestina: la época bajo dominio jordano, la administración por las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes y el período posterior a los Acuerdos de Oslo, así como la creación de la Autoridad Palestina en Cisjordania y la Franja de Gaza.

Finalmente, las fotografías de la ciudad enfocan elementos para la reorganización de la existencia colectiva e individual. Una de las condiciones principales es la falta de espacio. El apilamiento, la compresión, o el llenado de los vacíos conectan tanto los documentos de archivo como el desarrollo urbano contemporáneo.





Ramallah Archive no. 1

Berlin Street, old city, Ramallah, 13 September 2014

On top of a preserved historical building, a new building owned by Mr Hadad, a Palestinian businessman from Amman, houses the offices of his company and a branch of the Jordan Commercial Bank.

The establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1994 initiated a heavy wave of construction. Therefore Ramallah Municipality decided to protect and preserve most of the old houses.



Ramallah Archive no. 2

Archives municipales de Ramallah, Palais de la Culture, Ramallah, 1er juillet 2014

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 1 July 2014

A photograph of a negative from the late 1950s or early 1960s, produced by Garo Kuffedjian, a studio photographer of Armenian origin, at Studio Venus in Ramallah. The father holds the photograph of another son, who may live in America, considering the emigration patterns of Ramallah residents at that time.

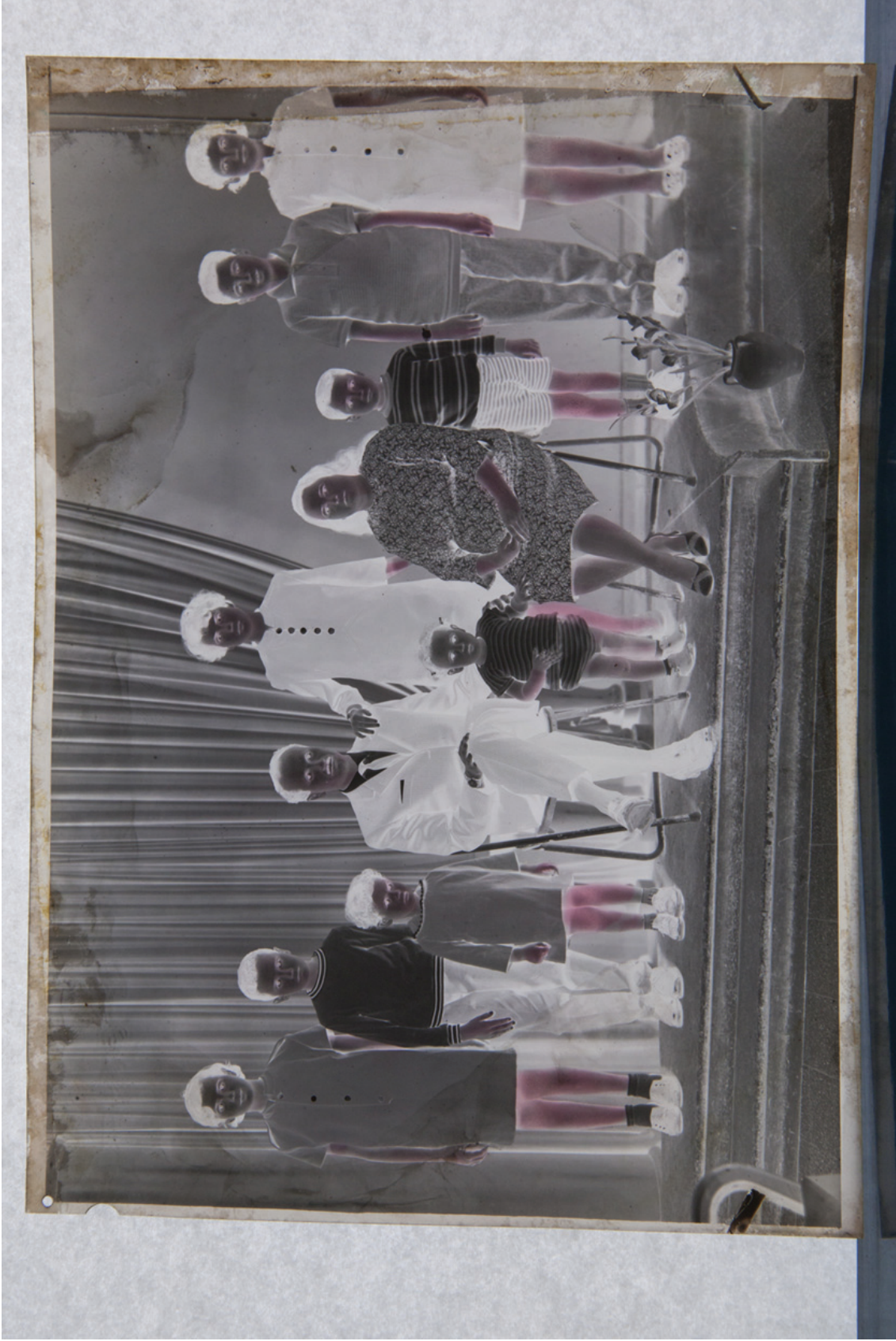


Ramallah Archive no. 3

Ayn Sam'an neighborhood, Ramallah, 13 September 2014

The arrival of large numbers of Palestinian refugees in the aftermath of al-Nakba, the Palestinian Catastrophe of 1948, caused the population of Ramallah to grow from around 8,000 to 26,000 inhabitants. Immediately after the war of 1967, the population dropped from around 30,000 to less than 25,000 people.

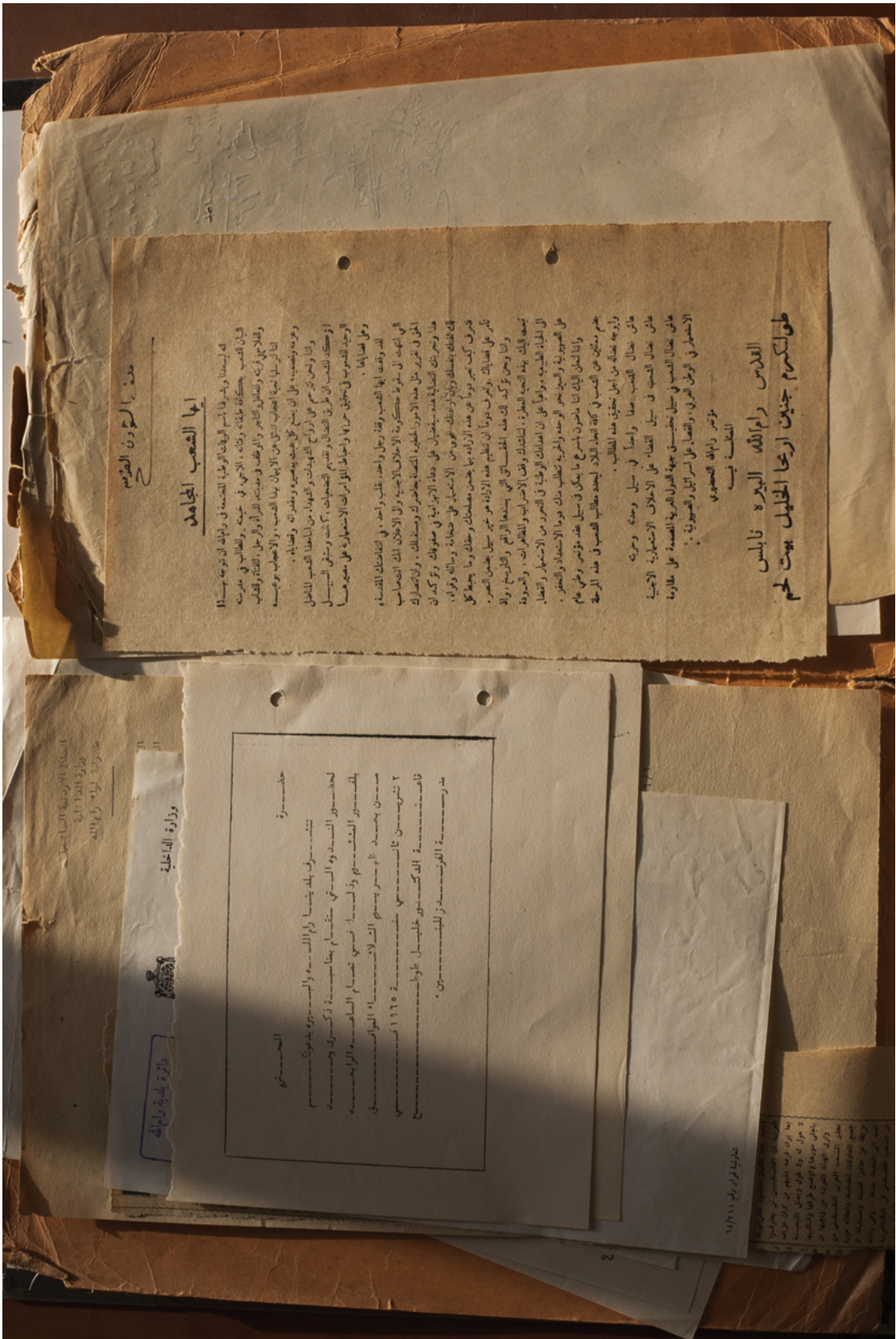
In 2014, the population of the city counted around 46,000 residents. The total number of inhabitants of the city and its environs, 80 towns and villages, was approximately 333,000, with an employment rate of 43.8 %.



Ramallah Archive no. 4

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 1 July 2014

A photograph from late 1960s or early 1970s showing a negative by Garo Kufedjian. Arpine Kufedjian, his wife and assistant, colored and retouched people's skin—ostensibly to improve the contrast, but mainly to lighten dark complexions.



مذكرة السيدون الترميم

أعيا الشعب المجاهد

له لبيتنا ويغمرنا باسم الغياث الرطب الغصنة في ابرامك ان ترحمه به...
القدس رام الله البيرة نابلس
طوائفكم جديين ارجعوا الخليل يهت لحم

القدس رام الله البيرة نابلس
طوائفكم جديين ارجعوا الخليل يهت لحم

القدس رام الله البيرة نابلس
طوائفكم جديين ارجعوا الخليل يهت لحم

Ramallah Archive no. 5

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 11 September 2014

A folder with documents concerning national affairs from 1956 to 1968. The document at the left is an invitation to a symposium on the occasion of the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration in 1965. The document at the right is the announcement of a Ramallah meeting to prepare a conference on the people's support of liberation from colonialism and the elimination of Zionism.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 Ramallah
 Palestinian National Authority
 Ministry of Education & Higher Education

التاريخ: ٢٩/١٠/١٩٩٥
 الموافق: ٢٩ جمادى أول ١٤١٦

حضرة السيد خليل موسى المحترم
 رئيس لجنة بلدية رام الله
 حيا وبعد،

الموقوف: **عبد الكريم سعيف**

أعزبتكم أن وزارة التربية والتعليم العالي قد قامت بإعداد وثائق كتاب التربية الوطنية
 للصف الأول الأساسي حتى الصف السادس الأساسي، والتي سيتم
 توزيعها هذا العام في مدارسنا. علما بأن الوزارة تتكف على إتمام هذه السلسلة حتى الصف العاشر في
 عام القادم.
 لذلك نرسل لكم نسخة الصف الأول الأساسي من هذه الموثقات، وتكون شاكرون لأي تعليق على
 هذا النسخ التي اختبرت نسخا تجريبية.
 مبروك لأطفالنا،

١. ياسر عمرو
 وزير التربية والتعليم العالي



Handwritten signature in red ink.

Ramallah P.O.Box (576) من رام الله، Fax (+972-2-998-5559) تلسكس (+972-2-998-5555)

Ramallah Archive no. 6
 Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 11 September 2014
 A letter dated 24 October 1995 from the Minister of Education and Higher Education of the Palestinian National Authority to the Mayor of Ramallah announcing good news—a new series of textbooks for all grades of elementary school in the Palestinian national education system—and asking for his comments on the first-grade book.

גישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי

אָמֵר רִמְתָּן

אָמֵר רִמְתָּן תְּאִסֵּס עֲמָק עֵסְקֵרִי

אִסְתָּאדָא אִל הַסְּלַחִיּוֹת הַחֲזָרָה לִי בִשְׁמִי תָאָד קְוֹת גִּישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי בִּלְמַנְטֵה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי, וְעִמְלָא בְּלֵאדָה הַ מִן הָאָמֵר רִמְתָּן תְּלִמִּיּוֹת הָאָמֵן (מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי), אָקֻם בְּהַּא בְּאִנְשֵׁה הָאָמָק הָעֵסְקֵרִי הַתָּלִיבִי :

- א - עֲמָקָה עֵסְקֵרִי בִּלְקִשָׁה אֹרְשְׁלִימִי.
- ב - עֲמָקָה עֵסְקֵרִי בִּלְקִשָׁה סְבִירֹן (אֶלְלִיל).
- ג - עֲמָקָה עֵסְקֵרִי בִּלְקִשָׁה גִּינִין וְעֲרִיבִי שִׁחִימִין (נַאֲבִלִס).
- ד - עֲמָקָה עֵסְקֵרִי בִּלְקִשָׁה שְׂרִיקִי שִׁחִימִין (נַאֲבִלִס).
- ה - עֲמָקָה עֵסְקֵרִי בִּלְקִשָׁה רַאם אֶתְדֵּ וְרִימְעוֹ (אֵרִיגָא).

יִטְלַק עַל הַזֶּה הָאָמֵר אִסְמֵה אָמֵר רִמְתָּן אִנְשֵׁה עֲמָק עֵסְקֵרִי (מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי) (רִמְתָּן 3), לְשַׁנָּה 1967-1967.

בִּלְ 28 אֵיָר 1967 (7 חֲזִירָאן 1967).

אָלֹף - חַלִּימִין הַרְמוֹסִיג

תָּאָד קְוֹת גִּישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי

בִּלְ מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי

20

בְּמֵה הַנְּהָה לִישְׂרָאֵל

צו מס' 3

צו בְּדַבֵּר כִּינוּן בְּתִל מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִיִּים

בְּתוֹקֵה סְמִכּוֹתֵי כְּמִפְקֵד קוֹחוֹת צְה"ל בְּאֹזֵר הַגְּדוּה הַמְּעֻרְבִית, וְעַל-פִּי סִעִיף 5 לְצוֹ בְּדַבֵּר הוֹרָאוֹת בְּטוֹחוֹ (אֹזֵר הַגְּדוּה הַמְּעֻרְבִי-בִּית), אֵינִי מְכַוֵּן בּוֹה בְּתִל מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִיִּים כְּדִלְקָמֹן :

- א. בֵּית מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִי לְנֶפֶת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
- ב. בֵּית מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִי לְנֶפֶת הַבִּירֹן
- ג. בֵּית מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִי לְנֶפֶת גִּזְרֵי וְשִׁכְם מְעֻרָב
- ד. בֵּית מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִי לְנֶפֶת שִׁכְם מוֹרָה
- ה. בֵּית מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִי לְנֶפֶת רַמַּלְלָה וְרִיחֹן.

לְצוֹ זֶה יִיקָרָא "צו בְּדַבֵּר כִּינוּן בְּתִל מִשְׁפֵּט צְבָאִיִּים (אֹזֵר הַגְּדוּה הַמְּעֻרְבִית) (מס' 3), תשכ"ז - 1967".

כִּי"ח בְּאִיִּיר תִּשְׁכ"ז

1967 בִּינוֹי 7

חַיִּימִין הַרְמוֹסִיג, אֵלֶּה

כְּמִפְקֵד קוֹחוֹת צְה"ל

בְּאֹזֵר הַגְּדוּה הַמְּעֻרְבִית

25

סִרְיָאן הַזֶּה הָאָמֵר אֶעְתָּבָרָא מִן 28 אֵיָר 1967 חֲזִירָאן 1967).

עַל הַזֶּה הָאָמֵר אִסְמֵה אָמֵר רִמְתָּן חֲטָר הַנֵּב (מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי) (רִמְתָּן 1), לְשַׁנָּה 1967-1967.

1967 (7 חֲזִירָאן 1967).

אָלֹף - חַלִּימִין הַרְמוֹסִיג

תָּאָד קְוֹת גִּישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי

בִּלְ מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי

גִּישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי

אָמֵר רִמְתָּן

אָמֵר רִמְתָּן הַחֲמֵר הַסְּמִי

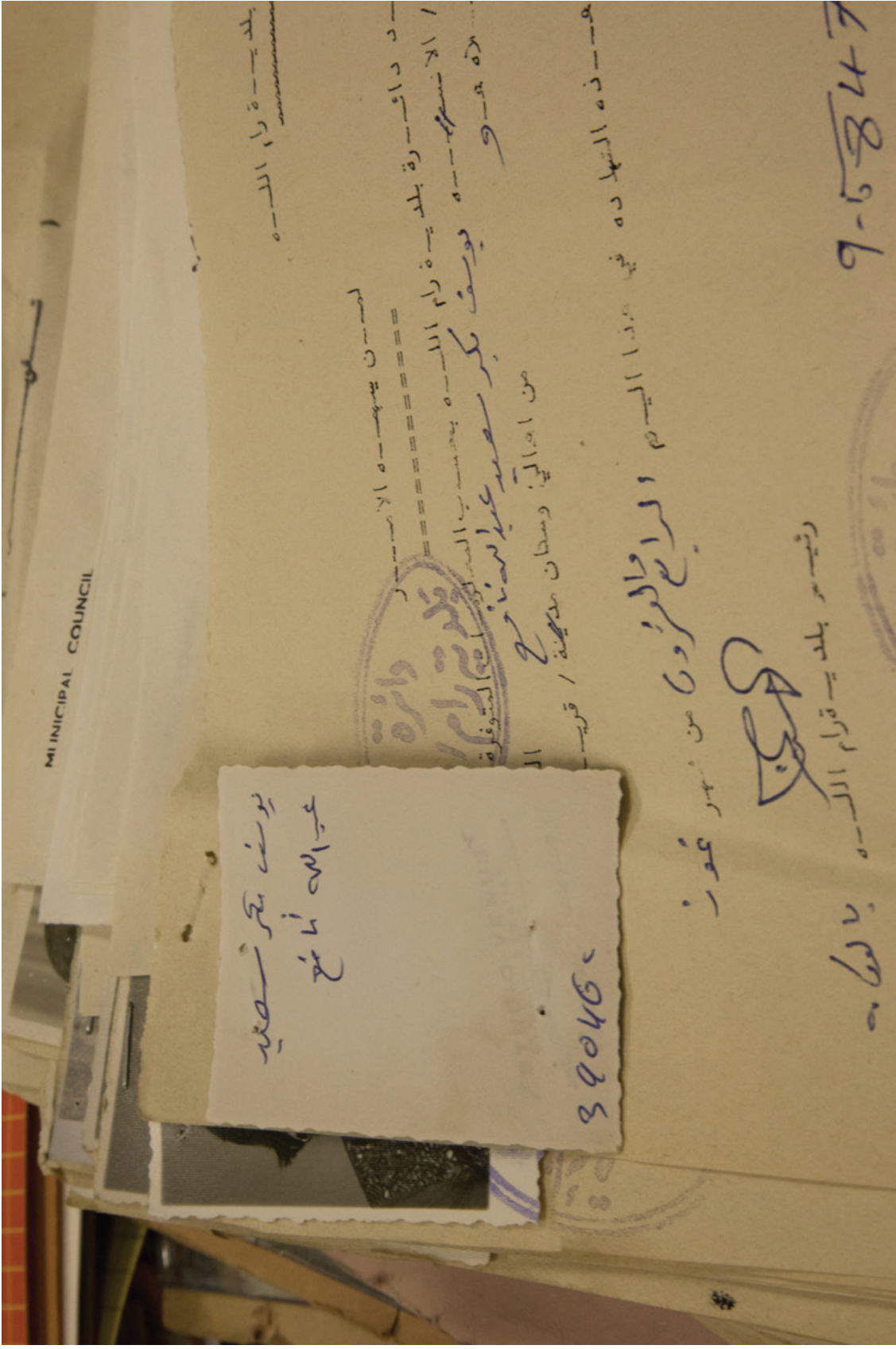
אָמֵר רִמְתָּן הַחֲמֵר הַסְּמִי עִמְלָא בְּאִסְלַחִיּוֹת הַחֲזָרָה לִי בִשְׁמִי תָאָד קְוֹת גִּישׁ הַדְּפָאָה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי בִּלְ מְנַטֵּה הַסְּפֵה הַעֲרִיבִי, אָמֵר בְּאִיִּילִי:

24

Ramallah Archive no. 7

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 6 September 2014

A collection of orders by the Israeli military government and its civilian administration in the West Bank. Shown is the third order announcing the establishment of military courts in the West Bank for the districts of Jerusalem, al-Khali/Hebron, Jenin and West Nablus, Ramallah, and Jericho. The IDF commander of the West Bank signed the order on 7 June 1967. That same day, the Israeli army entered Jerusalem and ended Jordanian rule.



يوسف بكر صعيد
غياره نافع

39046

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

بلدية رام الله
وزارة

المراجع المبرور من شهر محوز

رئيس بلدية قرام الله

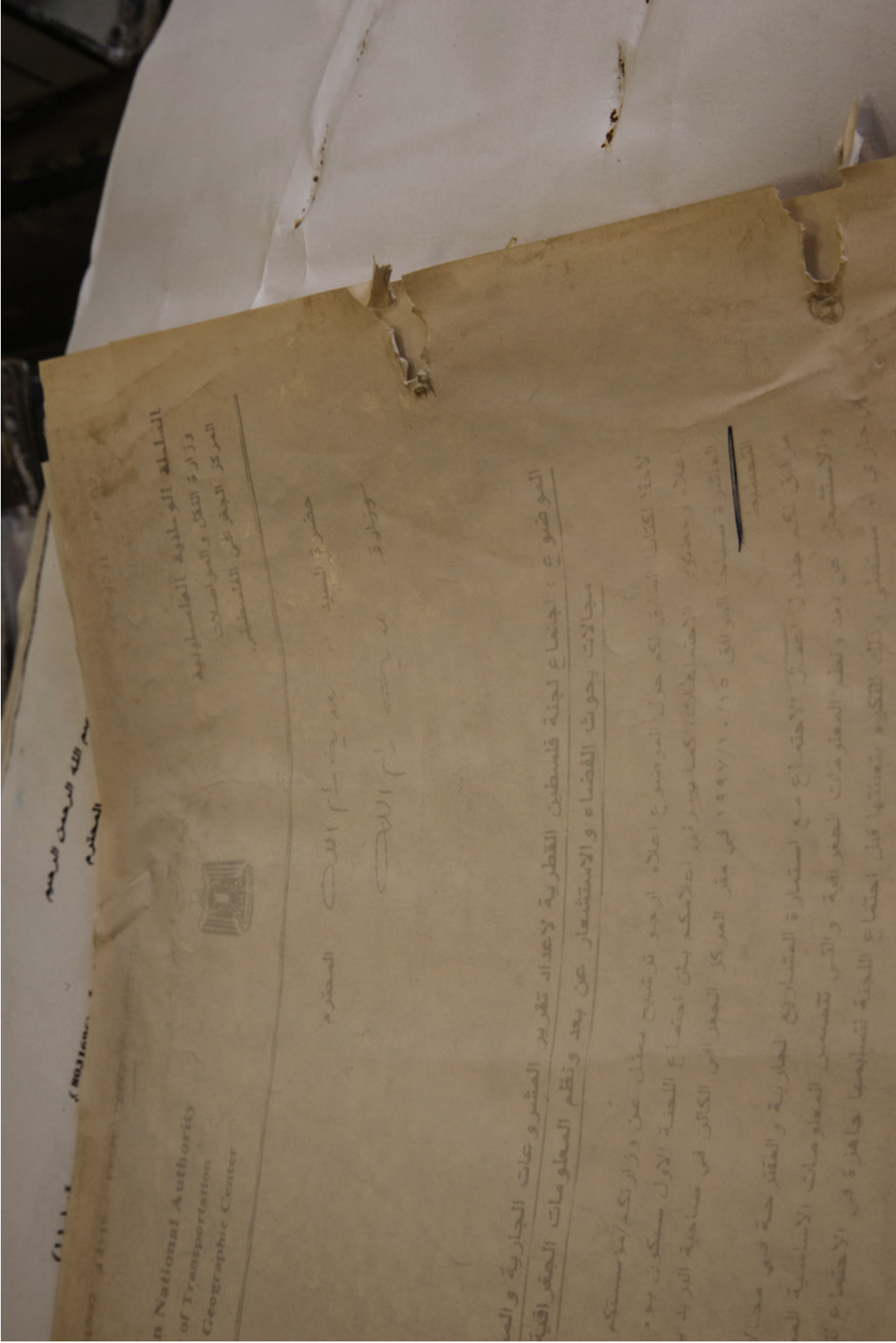
بالله

9-5847

Ramallah Archive no. 8

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 6 September 2014

Residential authentication certificate signed by the mayor of Ramallah, dated 1974, with a photo of the person requesting the certificate. The photo bears the stamp of Studio Venus and the serial number used by Garo Kufedjian to register each photo and negative he made.



Ramallah Archive no. 9

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 6 September 2014

A letter dated 14 October 1997 from the Palestinian Geographical Center at the Ministry of Transportation of the Palestinian National Authority to Ramallah Municipality, inviting a representative to participate in a meeting to prepare a report on projects of space research, remote sensing, and geographic information systems.



Ramallah Archive no. 10

Ramallah Cultural Palace, Tokyo Street, Ramallah, 6 September 2014

Established in 2005 by Ramallah Municipality, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Government of Japan, the Ramallah Cultural Palace includes one room devoted to the municipal archive, where the negatives of Studio Venus are kept.

Visible in the background is the unfinished building of the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its construction started in 2010.



Ramallah Archive no. 11

Ajlouni compound, Issa Ziadeh Street, Ramallah, 13 September 2014

Most members of the Ajlouni family, one of the original Ramallah families, migrated to the US for employment. Families from the city of al-Dhahiriya settled in their houses in the 1960s.

בנק דיסקונט לישראל
 הפקדה - מזומן/ש"ח

ש"ח לבו יש למלא
 די דף במקומות המודג

8.12.87
 תאריך

מספר חשבון: 72060
 סניף: 302339
 כספם במזומן

מס' סניף	מס' חשבון	ערך	קמות	×	בנק	סלר	חשבון	תאריך	סכום השיק
סה"כ	=								
	=			×				2.12	152550
	=			×				2.12	84870
	=			×					
	=			×					
	=			×					

מס' סניף: _____
 מס' חשבון: _____
 סכום שיקים: _____
 סכום בעקלים ודרישים: _____
 סה"כ שיקים: _____
 סה"כ במזומן: 222380

תחנות הבסטר
 תחנת הפקיד
 108-12-1987
 1987-12-08
 ק 108
 1987-12-08
 1987-12-08

לזכות: *א. ס. א. א. א. א.*

הפקוד
 שם: _____
 תפקיד: _____

נייר כספי - אין צורך בנייר העתקה
 נייר כספי - אין צורך בנייר העתקה

צפן אשקלון 4,86
 צפן אשקלון 4,86

Ramallah Archive no. 12
 Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 6 September 2014
 Deposit slip from the Israel Discount Bank, Ramallah Branch, dated 8 December 1987, concerning two checks in favor of Ramallah Municipality.
 8 December 1987 also marks the beginning of the First Intifada.

Reference _____
Date _____

لمن يهمه الأمر

أشهد بحسب سجلات واوراق بلدة رام الله بأنه لا توجد
أهية أو شخص متعلق للخدمة أو العمل في البلدية
وقد لا توجد أية تربية المعارف.

أهليستوفي هذا اليوم الثاني من شهر سبأ سنة ١٤١٤
لهجره

لورطلب من رئيس البلدية رام الله
صورتك مستقرة لعدد ١٧١٦١

تم تزويد
بإسمه
بمجلس
بوليسيا
وتشرفه بلدة رام الله
٢ شباط ١٩٦٤



تمت
مجلس
مالية رام الله

عند
البلدية رام الله
١٠
مستقر
رام الله

لا قيد لدينا ضد
المتعب ولا مانع
بناء على الواقف على
شبهه لعضوية بلدية

Ramallah Archive no. 13

Ramallah Municipality Archive, Ramallah Cultural Palace, Ramallah, 6 September 2014

The document on top, dated 2 February 1964, with Jordanian stamps, is a certificate confirming that Mr Anton Mardirosian, of Armenian origin, has paid all his taxes to Ramallah Municipality and the Education Commission.

The document below, signed by the Ramallah district governor, states that there are no objections against Mr Mardirosian's candidacy for the Ramallah Municipality Council.



Ramallah Archive no. 14

The New Graveyard, Ramallah Industrial Zone, Ramallah, 7 September 2014

The inscription on the gravestone at the right reads:

“... the resister, the writer, the intellectual, the human, the clean heart, hand and tongue. Jaffa 9 / 8 / 1947 – Ramallah 9 / 8 / 2012 ...”

The date and place of the individual's birth and death indicate that he was one of a large number of Palestinian refugees in the aftermath of the 1948 war.



Ramallah Archive no. 16

Al-Maskoubiyeh neighborhood, Ramallah, 13 September 2014

The building at the left will be soon destroyed to make room for an apartment building. The new construction at the right surrounds a protected house and contains forty-four apartments. In the middle is the Ramallah Basic Boys School, serving 500 Palestinian refugee children from Ramallah and surroundings. The school belongs to the Education Department West Bank of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).



Ramallah Archive no. 17

Kamal Nasir Street, al-Masaif neighborhood, Ramallah, 13 September 2014

According to locals, the phenomenon of building "Eiffel Towers" on top of houses in Ramallah actually originated in Amman, Jordan, in the 1970s. Two brothers were the first to come up with the idea of building an appealing object to hold the TV antenna on the roof of their villa. They ordered the structure from a local blacksmith. In Jordan and Palestine, an Eiffel Tower indicates the residents' elevated socio-economic status.



Ramallah Archive no. 18

The New Graveyard, Ramallah Industrial Zone, 7 September 2014

The graveyard is divided in two parts: one for Christians, the other for Muslims.

The asphalt road behind the graveyard marks the border with Ofer Camp, an Israeli military installation that includes a prison, investigation rooms, and trial facilities used against Palestinian political prisoners.



Ramallah Archive no. 19

Ayn Sam'an and Ayn Musbah neighborhoods, Ramallah, 6 July 2014

The master plan of Ramallah covers approximately 19,000 acres, one third of it reserved for construction areas. The city is home to 20 % of the West Bank housing units.