

دار بلومزبوري - مؤسسة قطر للنشر  
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## BLOOMSBURY QATAR FOUNDATION'S MAJLIS DEVELOPS LITERARY SCENE IN QATAR

*Qatar Foundation Member Brings Together Award-Winning Authors And Writers From Across The Local Community For Third Edition of Literary Majlis*

**Doha, Qatar 1 November 2014:** Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation (BQF), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), hosted a literary Majlis led by two award-winning authors from the region.

In line with QF's mission to unlock human potential by fostering a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, the third edition in the literary Majlis series gathered local writers, poets and artists eager to hear from prominent authors Suad Amiry and Jabbour Douaihy.

The authors engaged in discussion with the audience as part of the Literary Majlis' mandate to promote and nurture the literary scene in Qatar.

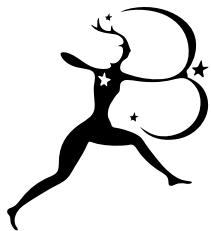
Moderated by Khaled Hroub, Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar, the two-hour event resembled a traditional Majlis setting, where *hakawatis*, or travelling poets and storytellers, would recount oral histories. Amiry and Douaihy shared excerpts from their most recent works 'Golda Slept Here' and 'June Rain'.

Based on a shared commitment to social development and community engagement, BQF partnered with the Katara Art Centre and Qatar MICE Development Institute to host the literary Majlis.

"The traditional setting of a Qatari Majlis provided the perfect backdrop to a literary discussion on the most challenging issues of the Middle East," said Arend Küster, Acting Director at BQF. "We are grateful that Suad Amiry and Jabbour Douaihy were able come to Doha and share their stories with the local community."

Both literary pieces draw the reader into a time of conflict, upheaval and uncertainty.

Palestinian author Amiry narrated excerpts from 'Golda Slept Here', a moving portrait of Palestinian daily life under occupation, while Lebanese author Douaihy's 'June Rain' examines a single murder and the subsequent unravelling of a small village in Lebanon as it succumbs to internal division.



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After the readings, the authors participated in a lively Q&A session with audience members, and reflected on their own personal creative writing process as well as the field of literature in the region.

"I was born a *hakawati* however, it took me 50 years to realise that writing is about having a story to tell, and only then can one draft an eloquent sentence," said Amiry.

**ENDS**

#### **About the Authors:**

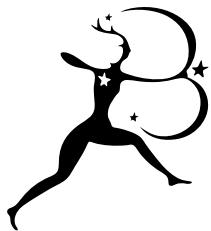
**Suad Amiry** is an architect, and Founder-Director of RIWAQ: the Centre for Architectural Conservation in Ramallah. Amiry won Italy's prestigious Viareggio-Versilia Prize in 2004, and her first book, 'Sharon and My Mother-in-Law' was long-listed for the Lettre Ulysses award for Reportage. She is the author of 'Menopausal Palestine: Women at the Edge' (2010) and 'Nothing to Lose but Your Life' (2011).

**Jabbour Douaihy** is a Lebanese writer and is currently a professor of French literature at the Lebanese University in Beirut. His novel June Rain was nominated for the 2008 Arabic Booker Prize and has been translated in several languages. An earlier work Autumn Equinox was translated into English by Nay Hannawi and won the Arkansas Arabic Translation Award.

#### **About Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation**

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation (BQF) is owned by Qatar Foundation and managed by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc in London. BQF is based in Doha, Qatar, and has four core aims:

- Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing: To publish books of excellence and originality to the highest editorial, design and production standards, in Arabic and in English. The list ranges from board books for babies, children's books, fiction and non-fiction for adults, information and reference, and academic monographs.
- Knowledge Transfer: To transfer publishing and related skills to Qatar and the Gulf region via training and other initiatives.
- Reading and Writing Development: To encourage lifelong literacy in Qatar and the Arab World.



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- Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals (BQFJ) focuses on fostering scholarly and research communication. BQFJ publishes a range of peer reviewed, high-quality, open access journals, databases and repositories on the QScience.com platform which adheres to the highest scholarly publishing standards.

### **About Qatar Foundation**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)