



MAKING SENSE #8

**Lebanon needs a
plan to properly
dispose of the
debris of war**

Najat Saliba, Rachad Rafeh and Choucri Haddad

Abstract

Lebanon's history of reconstruction has often been defined by corruption, environmental destruction and [governance failure](#). Each disaster that the country has experienced has been manipulated by several political elites for personal gain rather than [national recovery](#).

The post-civil war period (1975-1990) saw reconstruction dominated by private sector elites where massive amounts of debris was dumped into the sea, reclaiming approximately 600,000 square metres of land along Beirut's coastline. Areas like the Normandy landfill, once an uncontrolled dumping ground, were transformed into prime real estate for lucrative ventures, consolidating power among political and financial elites.

Following the 2006 war with Israel, which flattened 220 buildings in a 32-hectare neighbourhood in southern Beirut, rubble was dumped along the seafront in the Costa Brava landfill site. This site became a repository for 3 million cubic metres of debris, further contributing to environmental degradation while serving as yet another example of how crises are exploited to reclaim land for private gain.

This article is posted on PLOS ONE, to read more:

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/2025/03/19/lebanon-needs-a-plan-to-properly-dispose-the-debris-of-war/> March 19, 2025