

Brazilians of Lebanese descent Maluf and Tourinho visit LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Political analyst Dr. Rui Tavares Maluf, accompanied by his wife Monica, and Architect Mrs. Andréa de Oliveira Tourinho all hailing from Brazil, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Centre at NDU along with Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin America liaison officer.

While at LERC, Dr. Maluf traced his family history, starting with his grandfather, Iskandar Butrus Maluf, who was Latinized as Alexandre Pedro Maluf when he emigrated from Zahle in the Bekaa Valley to Brazil in 1915 and who went on to marry Alice Moussalli, a Lebanese.

The couple, he said, had four children, Alberto, Albertina, Ivete and Antonio, Dr. Maluf's father.

Antonio Maluf, who became a modernist artist, was born in Sao Paulo on December 17th 1926 and along with Dr. Maluf had two children, Pedro and Tniago.



With the Brazilians at LERC: (from left to right) Mr. R. Khatlab, Mrs. L. Haddad, Ms. G. Hourani, Dr. R. Maluf, Mrs. M. Maluf, Dr. A. Tourinho (Jan 2011).

Dr. Tourinho is a PhD holder in Architecture and Urbanism. As an architect she works at the Vale Foundation in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her great-grandmother, she said, moved to the state of Bahia in northeastern Brazil when only fourteen years old and though her life history is now lost, her original surname, Dr. Tourinho confirmed, was Bechara.

The Brazilian visitors were given a thorough overview of the Lebanese Emigration Archives Database (LEAD), and the Collections on offer. After a visit to the Lebanon Migration Museum the group was introduced to LERC Director, Ms. Guita Hourani.

Dr. Maluf promised to send LERC some material that he had authored which would be of use to the Center. In a departing statement, he expressed the deep and strong emotions the visitors felt while being at LERC and congratulated the Center for its important work in studies on emigration.