



The President's Office of the Guardians of the Cedars - Great Britain District - issued the following communiqué:

The Guardians of the Cedars Party is a legal Lebanese party licensed by the Lebanese Interior Ministry, and is therefore not an association formed to harm the security of Lebanon. One of its slogans is, "If I did not have the Lord to worship, Lebanon would be my lord."

The Constitution states in its preamble - Section C: Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic that is based on the respect of public freedoms, foremost of which are the freedoms of expression and creed, on social justice and equality with respect to rights and obligations among all its citizens, without any discrimination or preference.

Chapter 2 - Article 12 - also stipulates that the freedom of expression of opinion in speech and in writing, and the freedoms of the press, assembly, and association, are all "guaranteed" under the law.

So what crime is it for the Guardians of the Cedars Party to demand that the Lebanese be loyal to Lebanon and not to Arabism in a democratic country??? We certainly wish that a Lebanese government official explain to us what benefits has Arabism bestowed on Lebanon. Let them engage us in a dialogue of logic and not repression.

As to harming the reputation of the Lebanese judiciary whom we respect, we demand that all politicians stop exploiting this honorable institution. We would have wished that the Lebanese judiciary defend the 4 judges who were assassinated in the court, especially since the murderers are known and are affiliated with the Arabism you proclaim.

Unfair judgments! Wasn't the judgment against Samir Geagea unfair? Wasn't the exile of Michel Aoun unfair? Wasn't the release of Rana Koleilat unfair? There is no ending to the list of unfair judgments taken under the Syrian rule.

Sectarian incitement? From a secular party? How can it be since we have been calling from day one for secularism and the separation of religion from state. Is this sectarian incitement? Can someone please explain?

Our fellow Lebanese, we have never, nor will we, abandon our principles or our slogans. But the slogan "Each Lebanese must kill a Palestinian" was never a party slogan but rather a war term whose time has passed. There are much worse and stronger slogans that are used today by some non-Lebanese factions and no one holds them to account.

To the folks of March 14, Messrs. Gibran Tueni, Nemtallah Abi-Nasr, Pierre Gemayel, Ahmad Fatfat, Fuad Siniora, Dory Chamoun, Michel Aoun and others. Where are the honorable men of Lebanon to defend freedoms? Please read the text of the press conference before making a judgment, and use your consciences.

Our friends and comrades, our heroes Naji Audeh, Habib Younis, and Joseph Taouq, we are with you. We are translating the press conference into all languages for distribution to all embassies, member states of the UN, human rights organizations along with the text by Judge Hammoud to present all the circumstances of the conference. We shall begin sit-ins in Lebanon and across all the countries of the Diaspora in order for justice to prevail.

Lebanon, at your service

Albert Chaoul  
November 6, 2005