



The Party of the Guardians of the Cedars-National Lebanese Movement, refuting the rumors concerning the Border Zone, issued the following communiqué:

Much has been said about the future of the Border Zone after the Israeli withdrawal, and the opinions emitted concerning the future of its people were so many that a state of total confusion is predominant. Therefore, in order to edify the public opinion to the reality and the seriousness of the situation, we find it **imperative** to declare the following constants:

1. The request made by the De Facto government in Beirut to the recruits of the South Lebanon Army to surrender themselves to the Lebanese judiciary is improper and rejected in Form and in Essence:
 - **In Form:** The judgements issued against them were issued under pressure and duress because the Lebanese judiciary is completely subservient to Beirut's political establishment in power, which, in turn is completely subservient to the Syrian occupation. This obviously eliminates any legitimacy to these judgements, renders them illegal and therefore null and void.
 - **In Essence:** The recruits of this Army and its allies, obeying their national duty, have defended their zone from the oncoming borders of Palestinians, Syrians, and Iranians and are still performing this sacred duty on behalf of their absentee government. This has cost them immense sacrifices and self-denial. They deserve instead rewards, thanks and recognition. And the absentee government deserves to be tried for the relinquishment of sovereignty and the obedience to foreign powers. This Crime is called High Treason !
2. The people of this region reject any proposition of amnesty, because they consider it degrading and the recognition of a guilt they did not commit. They refuse to beg for their rights, they will impose them. They refuse to be the accused and will be the accusers.
3. As for the proposition of expatriating them and settling them in a foreign land, that is utter nonsense. Their decision to remain in their land is Final. And their decision to pursue their movement to the end is irrevocable. They are determined to return to Beirut in Honor and Glory, and they will !

In order to eliminate misunderstanding, confusion and clatter, we issued this communiqué and declared these constants!

At the Service of Lebanon,

Etienne Sacre