



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

Syria's commissioner in Lebanon, the nominal Lebanese President of the Taef Republic, celebrated his 68th birthday at the Vendome Hotel, one of the most luxurious hotels in Beirut, in grandiose ceremonies glorifying his person and an ambience of lavish extravagance. This is at a time when the ghost of famine haunts thousands of Lebanese families and scandal after scandal pile up in a flagrant stench of corruption. The most prominent of these is the file concerning the privatization of mobile communications that has been unresolved for the past 3 years, remaining open like the cave of Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves. Next is the scandal of the Medina Bank that was shut down in an embezzlement case that squandered millions of dollars belonging to the country and the Lebanese people. Not to mention the case of the airplane of death which is being covered up and hushed up even as it devoured dozens of casualties and disaster victims.

It was in the midst of this orgy of scandals and corruption, and with hunger and poverty knocking at people's doors, that this man celebrated his "happy" birthday. The hotel bills were most likely paid by the empty treasury because his (military) pension cannot possibly cover for them. And while we are speaking of the army, it is well known that this man was promoted to the rank of General without ever taking part in a single military campaign, except perhaps the one he fought alongside the Syrians on October 13, 1990 to topple General Aoun and later take his place.

May God give this man a long enough life for no other reason but to keep him alive for the day of reckoning on this earth.

On another subject, a former President of this forsaken Republic held a convention for the "Phalangist Reform Movement" in Tower Park Hotel in Ain Saadeh – emphasize "reform" – where he gave a speech in which he emphatically called on the Lebanese to rally around the "Resistance" in the South to liberate it from the Israeli occupation. He also made sure to add equal emphasis on regaining Lebanese sovereignty from the Syrian occupation, on confronting the economic collapse, and on his opposition to renewing and/or extending the term of the present regime...etc.

On the subject of the "Resistance", to say that the Lebanese people support it is just one big lie. In fact, the vast majority of the people privately wish they are rid of it and see it replaced with the Lebanese Army, except naturally for the few who are benefiting from this so-called "Resistance". As for his concern over sovereignty, it is an utter fabrication because he is the one who did away with it during his blessed presidency, keeping some mangled leftovers of sovereignty for his fief in Bikfaya. And on the economy, it is already in the downward spiral that began under his term in office when the Lebanese Lira lost its buying power to foreign currencies at record speed. As to his opposition to renewing or extending the present regime's term, everyone remembers how he flew to Damascus on his last day in office on board a helicopter to beg the Syrian dictator for an extension of even a few months for his own presidential term.

The Lebanese people long for the day when these whorish times will end in a country built on holiness, piety, and the fear of God. They long even more for the gallows to be erected in downtown Beirut and the noose tightened around the necks of all those who successively raped and killed this nation.

Lebanon, at your service,
Abu Arz,
January 17, 2004