



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué

If the attack on May Chidiac is a crime against freedom and democracy, which is true, then the targeting of the leaders of the Guardians of the Cedars by the post-March 14 government is also a crime against freedom and democracy. For if not, then what is the meaning of their detention all this time for no other act but expressing an opinion they had always professed in the past at public and private venues, and which they continuously stated in all their communiqués, speeches and conferences for the past thirty years?

And if Lebanese nationalist thinking is banned in the post-March 14 State, then this State should go after the pioneers of this thinking, from Charles Corm to Michel Shiha and Youssef Saouda, and from Said Akel to May Murr and others, and ban the study of their literature in the educational programs.

And if it is a crime punishable by law to speak of a Lebanese identity unadulterated with any other qualifier, then the prisons will remain crowded with those Lebanese who share with us the deeply-rooted and unshakable belief in their Lebanese identity.

And instead of the State devoting all its strength to fighting “ghosts” who kill people in their sleep and sow death and destruction in the streets and residential neighborhoods, and capturing them and bringing them to justice, it entertains itself by repressing free speech, taping mouths shut, and bullying the freedom of expression and opinion of the Lebanese as used to happen under the Syrian occupation.

We do not believe that this government is issued from the March 14 movement as it claims every day on every rooftop, nor was it born out of that movement, because the primary motive behind March 14 was to demand a recovery of freedom from the grip of the Syrian occupation. But where do we stand today in terms of that demand? Where do we stand with respect to this freedom that is incarcerated at this moment in the Roumieh prison for the past 16 days??

The greatest crime committed by the political establishment in this country was the assassination of March 14 in the womb, and this crime is what has led to the birth of this lame government and encouraged the continuation of this rotating cycle of crimes in broad daylight from neighborhood to neighborhood and from street to street.

The salvation that the Lebanese yearn for after they have had enough and run out of patience is the rise of a new March 14 that is conditioned on first isolating the extant political class and replacing it with one that is chosen from the ranks of the young men and women of Martyrs Square.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz
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