



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

In the countries of the civilized world, the struggle for power stops where the public interest begins, and it is governed by higher ethical and patriotic codes of conduct. This is what happened in the mid-term elections in the United States since the two parties competing for power rushed to cooperate in the interests of the American people. In Lebanon, political struggle has no limits and is not governed by ethical considerations or national controls, and the goal is access to power for the lust of power, and the people's interest does not even exist in the discourse of Lebanese politicians.

Now that all the projects of Dialogue and Consultations have disintegrated as expected, and that the celebrations of mutual deceit and lies have come to an end, the country has ushered into the unknown and the crisis is wide open to all possibilities. The crisis of the ruling regime and the government has become the crisis of a system, and sharp observers expect the fall of this Republic that has lost all attributes of survival and they await the rise of a new Republic whose features remain unknown.

For our part, we believe that the crises that continue to hammer the Lebanese body – the political, financial, social and other crises – are mere branches of the mother crisis, which is a crisis of ethics before anything else. There is no cure to the symptoms of the disease other than treating the disease itself, which is why all rescue attempts have so far failed. All treatments have failed because politicians in Lebanon are afflicted with the disease of lack of morals and ethics, and there is no cure for Lebanon without the departure of these politicians.

The state of terror and anxiety in which the Lebanese find themselves today does not stem only from their fear that the parties to the conflict will take to the streets with the obvious security ramifications this might have, but their biggest fear is that the international community might take its hands off of Lebanon in disgust at the systemic political leprosy in the country and abandon it at the height of its crisis. The country might then be left to fend for itself as an easy prey to the domestic and foreign wolves, especially those regimes with predator tendencies that surround Lebanon from all sides. If that were to happen, God forbids, Lebanon would have lost one more time a priceless and unique opportunity to save itself, and it would thus join the club of countries that are experts at missing opportunities and that indulge in willful suicide.

No solutions appear looming on the horizon, and the Lebanese people have only God to beseech in the hope of a new miracle similar to the one that removed the Syrian army from their land. In the meantime, may God help them and grant them patience and consolation.

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz

November 17, 2006