



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

There are no words to express the depth of disgust and revulsion felt by the Lebanese people regarding the terrifying decline in Lebanese politics, a decline that even the most backwards of countries in the world have never seen. No words to express the anger seething deep inside at the sight of these mobile funerals and barbaric crimes that kill people in broad daylight in the street, and yet no one is even found guilty and punished!!

It is not true, as some like to repeat every day, that the International Court is alone the reason for reaching this state of crisis and this unprecedented criminal saga in the history of Lebanon. This Court is only the tip of the iceberg, but beneath the surface lie all the wrongdoings and political depravations committed by the political establishment since independence and which have now built up into a mountain of crises that are refractory to the ordinary patch-up solutions used today.

Political wrongdoings began the day the political establishment agreed to falsify the true Lebanese identity and affiliation; the day they opened the borders to the hordes of Palestinians escaping Palestine in 1948 and allowed them to arm themselves, convert their camps into terrorist fortified camps, and use the southern front as a launching pad to their so-called “fedayeen” operations, which forced Lebanon into the crucible of an uneven conflict with Israel; the day they allowed fundamentalist organizations to grow on our land contrary to our Lebanese nature; the day they agreed to the entry of Syrian forces into Lebanon and provided them with the cover and support they needed to tear Lebanon and impoverish it and sow corruption on its land for 30 continuous years; the day they approved the Taif Agreement that dismembered the central authority of the State into quarreling fiefdoms and segregated the people into sectarian and religious quarters, which has all but eliminated its national unity; the day the leadership of the Eastern regions agreed to wage tribal wars among themselves, the most dangerous being the “War of Elimination” that truly eliminated everything. All these wrongdoings have brought us to where we are today, and what is taking place on the Lebanese stage today is nothing but a natural outcome of all these actions.

Speaking of the International Court, we believe that the Security Council has also made a mistake in the composition of the Court. Knowing the complexities of the Lebanese arena, the Security Council should have protected the Court against internal conflicts established a purely “international” court, and not an “internationally-flavored” court subjected to the whims of corrupt Lebanese politics. Alternatively, it could have simplified matters and referred the entire assassinations file to the International Court in The Hague, because in so doing the Security Council would have spared Lebanon more tragedies and martyrs.

In view of this dangerous political escalation, and amidst all the calls for demonstrations and sit-ins, we ask the young people of Lebanon to demonstrate maturity and wisdom and not participate in this cheap political bazaar. For once, they should stay home and let the leaders themselves fight it off in the street among themselves. We also ask those leaders – if they have any speck of dignity and self-respect left in them – to stop exploiting people and barter them in the streets for personal ambitions and regional objectives in which Lebanon

has no interest and which, in fact, could lead to the country's final destruction. To those leaders I say, "You truly underestimate how much people despise you."

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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