



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

In the midst of the political schism in Lebanon which has divided the people, the parties, the institutions and even the families into opposition and loyalists, and caused a state of confusion and alienation among many Lebanese, the Guardians of the Cedars Party wishes to clarify its position vis-à-vis this division and eliminate the uncertainty from the minds of party members and supporters by declaring the following convictions:

- 1- The Party considers that the responsibility for the disastrous state of affairs in which Lebanon finds itself is equally shared by both sides of the conflict.
- 2- The current political ruckus is more a conflict for influence and power than a competition for public service and the higher interests of the country. Most of the flashy slogans behind which the two sides hide are a smokescreen and camouflage.
- 3- The majority of the opposition and loyalist leaderships contributed to aborting the people's March 14 revolution and to keeping Syria's men in positions of power, and this is what led the country to complete paralysis and to the dangerous buildup that could explode at any moment.
- 4- The majority of the opposition and loyalist leaderships vied for supporting the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and volunteered to serve it. They colluded with it in pilfering the country's resources, impoverishing its people and bankrupting its treasury. They facilitated the continued stay of the occupation on the national soil with all that this entailed in the systematic destruction of Lebanon, the undermining of its existence and the dismantling of its infrastructure. No one should forget the slogans that those leaders used to repeat during the time of the Syrian custody, such as: The security of Lebanon is part of the security of Syria, the unity of path and destiny, the Syrian presence is necessary, legal, and temporary.
- 5- Both sides have links to outside forces and have consequently transformed Lebanon into the arena of a regional war from which the country never gained but disasters and tragedies in the past.

For all those and other reasons, the Guardians of the Cedars Party has decided to remain neutral with respect to this futile conflict and maintain equal distance from the parties to the conflict. The Party requests its members and supporters to abide by this decision.

In this context, the Party reiterates its attachment to the principles that it previously stated:

- 1- The need to create the International Tribunal and expand its authority to include all the Syrian crimes that occurred on our soil since 1976 and to this date, i.e. beginning with the assassination of Kamal Jumblatt and ending with the assassination of Pierre Gemayel.
- 2- The need to implement all international resolutions concerning Lebanon, particularly resolutions 1559 and 1701, without waiving any of their provisions.

3- Disengage Lebanon from all regional conflicts and engage it solely along one axis stretching from Naqura in the south to the confines of the Great River Orontes in the north.

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz

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