



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

Mediators go to Lebanon and then return from it with barely disguised pity. All they do is call on the Lebanese to seek common ground, reject conflict and maintain national unity, and they sermonize them and express meaningless wishes to them. This is what really worries the Lebanese the most. Their anxiety level goes up whenever mediators say that the only solution to the ongoing crisis is to return to dialogue, and that there is no solution outside that dialogue, even though everyone is convinced that dialogue within the current Lebanese leadership is like plowing the sea. Here is why:

First, all the previous dialogue and consultation projects in which everyone had high hopes have miserably failed, and returning to them is a waste of time and additional distraction. Second, not only are the parties to the conflict still entrenched in their previous positions, but they have raised the stakes. Third, all have reached the point of no return and have become prisoners of their declared positions and hostages to the mobilized masses they have assembled in the streets. Fourth, the godfather of the dialogue has become involved in the ongoing conflict and has become a party to it and is no longer an arbiter. Fifth, the regional powers that are benefiting from this crisis to the point of making their bets on it can ensure the failure of any internal agreement that does not serve their interests, particularly now that Lebanon has been converted into the perfect arena where all outside accounts are settled and some leaders have become pawns on the regional chessboard.

Before this stalemate, one must look for an extraordinary initiative that matches the magnitude of this extraordinary crisis and which is able to pull Lebanon out of the bottleneck. It would be based on two principal measures:

- Strengthen the external front by calling on the international community to issue a new resolution mandating the declaration of the neutrality of the Lebanese State, similar to the Swiss model. This is a unique measure that will prevent the takeover of the country and deny persisting outside interferences in its internal affairs.
- Strengthen the internal front through a national awareness campaign that will unite the opposing demonstrators in the streets against their leaders, since the problem is in the leaders and not the people. The real division is between the leaders and not between the Lebanese communities.

We have said it before and we reiterate it here: War and peace in the Middle East begin in Lebanon, which is the gravity center. Either the world will endeavor to promptly rescue this country, since the opportunity may no longer be available in the future, or the Lebanese fire will spread across the borders to engulf the neighboring countries.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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