



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

The ongoing conflict over the vacant parliamentary seat in the Baabda-Aley District has transcended its democratic context, as was stated in the statement of the Maronite Bishops Council, and moved in the middle of the chronic disputes between the Free Patriotic Movement and the Lebanese Forces Movement, and thus brought us back to the raging war that flared between them in the early 1990s and led to the fall of the bastions of Lebanese Resistance, and with them all of Lebanon, into the hands of the Syrian Occupation.

It is imperative in this situation to remind the protagonists that the sidelining and political bankruptcy in which “political maronitism” finds itself today, which in turn reflects itself as a disaster for the country, goes back to the Maronite-Maronite conflict that began with Presidents Bechara AL-Khoury and Emile Eddeh and continued unabated between Presidents Camille Chamoun and Fuad Shehab, and then between the latter and the Tripartite Alliance (Chamoun-Eddeh-Gemayel). It then erupted between Pierre Gemayel and Sulayman Frangiyeh, leading to the Ehden massacre, then between Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun leading to the massacre of Safra. Afterwards, it was the uprising wars between the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists and between factions within the Lebanese Forces, followed finally by the “War of Elimination” between General Aoun and Doctor Geagea, which led to the elimination of everyone and destroyed everything.

We also should remind people that the practice of each party resorting to blaming the other party for the responsibility of these conflicts is no longer accepted. People are tired of internal divisions, and have had it with the language of insults, clashing, defiance, and mobilization of instincts that are very remote from a sound democratic spirit. The people reject this addiction to internecine destruction among people of the same trench and the same community. All that they are calling for is a return to an atmosphere of understanding and solidarity, particularly at this extremely delicate phase. Otherwise, leave the Lebanese people alone.

Two questions that the people are posing to the Maronite leadership: If all these tragedies that they caused Lebanon have not taught them anything, then what amount of additional tragedies will suffice for them learn?? And if one vacant parliamentary seat conjured up all this viciousness, then what's in store for the fight for the Presidency of the Republic when it becomes vacant?

And it is not even necessary to remind people finally that these conflicts of greed over gains and positions will not rescue a drowning country, and will not build a

promising future for the coming generations who only guilt was to be born in an unlucky country, a country that is cursed with the spell of power and money. Rather, these conflicts are a warning that, if they continue, they will destroy the temple and bring it down over the heads of everyone. Beware.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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