



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

Whenever the presidential elections season approaches in Lebanon, the candidates increase their contacts with foreign states and their embassies in order to gain their sympathy and secure their support, on the ground that the presumptive president is always chosen outside, a choice which is then transmitted to Parliament to confirm that choice by way of an election in form that conveys the required legitimacy. This is the custom that was followed by most presidential candidates since the 1940s and to this date, until it has become a tradition that is publicly stated without the slightest embarrassment. Some even go so far as to express proudly that the number of embassies that support his candidacy exceeds the number of embassies that support his opponent!!!

Similarly the Lebanese media cover these contacts and discuss them as if they were perfectly normal. For example, some local newspapers published the following news in commenting on the postponement of the latest dialogue session: The postponement occurred to give the Arab summit meeting in Sudan an opportunity to resolve the problem of the Presidency of the Republic, and to take the regional approval of the candidates whose names are on the dialogue table.” The dangerous issue with this is that these embarrassing things no longer stir the disgust of the Lebanese or even their objection. They don’t even make them blink anymore, for they heard them enough and have become inured to them.

We are pained every time we hear such news like this, and we are hurt in our pride. We feel embarrassed for what the presidential situation has sunken to in this beleaguered country that is hostage to its politicians, and for how this presidency has become a wasteland for foreigners and a commodity to be sold and bought in the market of regional and international interests.

The more painful thing is that the more the addiction of the politicians for crawling to the doors of foreign capitals, the wider the door opens for foreign intervention in our internal affairs, the more complex the Lebanese crisis becomes, and the farther away the solutions seem, as is happening today.

For all this, there can be no reform to the situation in Lebanon before confronting this dangerous disease. And if the title of the dialogue table is truly “made in Lebanon”, let the participants to the dialogue, if they are serious in searching for salutary solutions, begin by putting an end to this unprecedented anomaly in the history of ancient and modern democracies, and electing for Lebanon a President who is “made in Lebanon”, even for once. Otherwise, let them amend the constitution so that the President of the Republic is elected directly by the people.

Lebanon , at your service,

Abu Arz
April 1, 2006