



The Guardians of the Cedars issued the following communiqué:

We have not yet heard a single convincing answer to the question that's been on the mind of the Lebanese people: Why did this mad war erupt on our soil? And what are its objectives?

If it is to recover four Lebanese prisoners from Israeli jails, should we sacrifice an entire country for them? And what about the hundreds of Lebanese prisoners in the Syrian jails? Why don't we declare a similar war on Syria to get those prisoners back?

If it is to liberate the Shebaa Farms, the whole world, including Syria, has not yet recognized the Lebanese identity of the Shebaa Farms.

If the war is a proxy war between Iran and the US because of Iran's nuclear ambitions, what does Lebanon have to do with this conflict? Why are the Lebanese forced to fight it on behalf of others while these others merely watch as spectators?

And if this war is being waged on behalf of Syria for the return of the Golan Heights, what is it that prevents the Syrian regime from firing just one rocket or one bullet onto Israeli territory? And until when will this regime continue to use Lebanon as an open war front to settle its scores with America and Israel, after it blackmailed Lebanon for the duration of three consecutive decades?

And if it is a war in support of Gaza, what does Lebanon have to do with Gaza? And if this war is being fought on behalf of the Arabs, the hell then with the Arabs, Arabism and all the Arabists...

Irrespective of the causes and the motives behind this war, the biggest loser in this mad war is Lebanon. Any verbiage about resistance here and steadfastness there is simply hot air and illusions whose objectives are to justify this absurd war and to camouflage the terrible destruction that has befallen this ravaged country, afflicted with its bad luck, its incompetent rulers and its clueless leaders.

Dispatching a few rockets into Haifa and beyond will not lead to the destruction of Israel and will not defeat it as they claim. It will only lead to the destruction of Lebanon since the destructive machinery of Israel is by far superior to the destructive machinery of the "Lebanese" side. So where is the wisdom in insisting on using artillery weapons unless the purpose is to burn Lebanon deliberately and intentionally to serve both the known and less known enemies of Lebanon.

By the invisible enemies of Lebanon we mean the Arab regimes or most of those who express verbal solidarity with Lebanon, when in reality they wish for our country to remain trapped in the vortex of violence and instability. This is particularly true of the Arab Gulf States who have secretly established friendship relations and commercial offices with Israel, and they benefited from the wars on Lebanon to achieve major and unprecedented advances in growth and development, such that they are becoming an international financial and business center to replace Lebanon. Therefore, there is no interest for these States in a return

of peace and stability to Lebanon, for fear that Lebanon might regain its previous glory and take away from them the achievements they accomplished at its expense.

The central question remains: When will Lebanon be cleansed of that epidemic called Arabism? And how much longer will our people continue to pay with their blood and their livelihood the price of the wars of the Arabs and the Persians on their soil? The answer will remain in the conscience of the honorable Lebanese.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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