



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

The events of last Tuesday and Thursday were not only extremely dangerous, they were also very ugly and not reflective at all of the distinction of the Lebanese people and their authentic democratic traditions, beginning with the bloody clashes between people of the same area, something which brought back to mind the climate of the past sinister war. This means that no one has learned anything from the harsh lessons of that war and that people's spirits remain highly charged and ready for internecine fighting in a tribal manner reminiscent of the massacres between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes of Central Africa. Not to mention the barbaric attacks on isolated citizens to terrorize them and destroy their properties, both public and private, and the paralysis of public facilities in the capital and cutting off the main arteries that are the country's vital links.

Calling for the strike on the eve of the convening of the Paris III conference and all the deliberate acts of violence and vandalism gave a bad impression to the outside world and caused the participating countries to hesitate in opening their treasuries to support the dying Lebanese economy. This means that the timing of the strike was wrong and aimed against Lebanon more than it was targeting the government.

The black smoke that filled the skies of the capital truly reflected the gloomy character of the parties of the conflict and the dominance of their electoral interests over the national interest, as well as the abject bankruptcy of the political establishment at imagining solutions to lead the country out of the hell in which they have banished it. The level of utter disgust of the Lebanese people has reached its maximum and has increased the popularity of the "Silent Majority Party" that includes in its ranks all the unhappy, the desperate and the anxious over their fate, to the detriment of the popularity of the political class in both its loyalist and opposition wings.

Tuesday was a popular referendum par excellence since it showed that the vast majority were of those who stayed in their homes, not because they liked the opposition and not because they hated the loyalists, but to express their rejection and their disgust from all that is taking place around them and on their soil, and to avoid subjecting themselves to security risks they can definitely live without.

We fault the Silent Majority Party for its silence and for grumbling in protest inside the walls of their homes, when they can make miracles and change the political status quo in its entirety if they choose to forgo their silence and express loudly their opinion. They should remember that theirs is the decisive voice in choosing and deposing rulers.

We urge this majority to rise from its slumber in a liberating uprising from the complexes of fear, hesitation and retreat before it is too late.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

January 26, 2007