



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

It is noteworthy in the ongoing crisis that each side claims to represent the people and speak and act on their behalf, when the reality is quite the opposite. For if an accurate referendum were to be conducted, one will find that the majority of the Lebanese are neither loyalists nor in the opposition. Rather, they are a silent majority that is unhappy with everything, rejecting all that is happening around it and in its name in this wide-open political bazaar. However, this silent majority continues to support to this day the popular movement of March 14 which lived only for a moment, after they all rushed to bury it alive out of fear of its revolutionary portent.

If this silent majority were allowed to speak openly, it would ask the parties concerned in the sit-in at the Serail and public squares some very obvious questions, such as:

1- Where is the interest of the people in scuttling the Paris III Conference which represents the last opportunity to revive the national economy and rescue the moribund financial situation from collapse, now that the national debt has exceeded the threshold of \$40 billion and the poverty rate has reached 30%? Isn't this scuttling itself a deliberate push to impoverish the people? The fact is that the dangerous financial and economic situation in which the country finds itself is the cumulative outcome of previous wrong financial policies whose responsibility lies squarely with the majority of those in power today, led by the Prime Minister himself who held the Finance Ministry portfolio in the governments during the previous decades.

2- Where is the interest of the people in imposing new taxes on the citizens as proposed in the recent reform papers prepared by the government? And why this continued bullying of ordinary citizens, except the rich and the wealthy and those who pilfered the treasury and robbed the State blind, and who were the direct cause for the abysmal fall into deficit of the treasury today?

3- Where is the interest of the people in obstructing the creation of the International Tribunal, which aims at uncovering the killers and tracking the butchers who have not yet quenched their thirst for the blood of the Lebanese people? Isn't this Tribunal the only way to bring an end to the growing wave of crimes on our soil? And where is the interest of Lebanon in protecting the figures of the Syrian regime against the reach of international justice?

4- And where is the interest of the people in escalating the sit-in in the field, cutting off roads, and shutting down public facilities, all of which will lead to further choke the poor among the people and not the government, and which may also lead to a sectarian strife that will engulf everyone?

No! The majority of the people are not with the princes of politics. The majority of the people have given up and lost faith in those, in politics, in politicians, in the sit-in in downtown Beirut, in the government and in their rulers. The majority of the people demand salvation from them and from the infernal cycle of their personal disputes and their petty electoral ambitions. Would the princes of politics cease and desist from deceiving and

exploiting people, and from pretending to speak in their name and profiteering at their expense?

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz

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