



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

Though an ongoing crisis is dangerous, it is less so than the fact of getting used to it and living with it, because it becomes an ordinary fact of every day life which people accept and stop demanding urgent solutions for. We say this because all evidence points to a crisis that may last much longer than people expected, and all the talk about imminent solutions is for local consumption.

Many reasons prompt us to this belief. First, those who drag the country into such a crisis are not likely to resolve it. Second, resolving complex crises requires a certain level of ethics, which is not available in the existing Lebanese body politic. Third, the first condition for a solution to this crisis is to disengage the domestic conflict from the external one, and this is also impossible because the allegiance of the majority of the Princes of Lebanese politics to outsiders takes precedence over their allegiance to their own country. Fourth, the parties to the conflict have raised the ceiling of their demands to its maximum, such that they can no longer retreat from their positions. Fifth, the tug of war between the loyalist forces and the opposition has reached an impasse as a result of the balance of power between the two sides.

A similar situation has evolved with the foreign mediations trying to break the logjam, and some are frankly undeclared failures. The current approach of these mediators has boiled down to marking time until upcoming events, such as the convening of the ordinary session of Parliament or the convening of the Arab League meeting or the next Presidential elections in October. Or more likely, the occurrence of a sudden development in Lebanon or the region that would shuffle the cards and change conditions, and pave the way for a comprehensive solution at the regional level.

As to the Princes of Lebanese politics, they are not only impotent at coming up with solutions, they are in fact not in a hurry for a solution, unless it is tailored to their interests. Why hurry when they are satisfied with their personal situation and secure about their future, and the future of their children and grandchildren after them? Why hurry when their finances are doing well and their bank accounts in the banks are more than adequate to protect them against the wants and the downturns of life? Not to worry if the people alone are paying the price of the crisis, and the ordinary citizen is reeling under the pressures of poverty and need, and the pursuit of a livelihood that is never really within reach! Not to worry if living conditions are like a noose around people's necks, and fear and anxiety are the dominant feelings among people! No, the Princes of Lebanese politics are not worried. They are even talking about a civil disobedience program to finish off the last breath of air that people still have and whatever is left of the country's wellbeing.

And in spite of this shocking disparity between the reality of the well-to-do political establishment on one hand, and the reality of the ruined ordinary people of Lebanon, we still see people being led blindly behind their leaders in a strange phenomenon reminiscent of primitive, backwards and ignorant societies.

It was once said: “God punishes people who lack acumen”, and this is what explains the sad state in which the Lebanese find themselves. We call on them, once again, to come out of their silence, to rebel against their leaders and stop sanctifying them, and to begin refusing to be used like fodder in the crematories of their leaders’ endless conflicts. Otherwise, the punishment will go on until the people regain their senses.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz  
February 23, 2007