



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

The Lebanese authorities have agreed to the deployment of a security force in the Ain Al-Helwey Camp consisting of the following elements: “Asbat Al-Ansar”, “Ansarullah”, and the “Mujahid Islamic Movement”, whose task is to separate the Lebanese Army from the “Jund Al-Sham” organization.

Merely hearing the names of these organizations raises the anxiety of the Lebanese people and leads one to ask the following questions: What are all these foreign organizations doing on the soil of Lebanon? What are their objectives and the *raison d’être* of their existences? And if they are separating between the Lebanese Army and “Jund Al-Sham” today, who will separate between them and the Lebanese Army in the future?

Those organizations, which include “Fatah Al-Islam” in the Nahr Al-Bared Camp, are classified as terrorist organizations all over the world and are known for their adherence to the radical Islamic “Salafi Takfiri” ideology. They have a direct or indirect connection with Al-Qaeda, and in spite of the diversity of their names, all of them are members of the same orchestra led by the conductor in Damascus who operates them by remote control and activates them according to his interests and objectives and at the time he sees fit.

It is also known that these organizations were created, developed and prospered under the Syrian custody over Lebanon and with Syria’s direct sponsorship. The objective for creating these groups was naturally not to fight Israel but to fight Lebanon should the Syrian army find itself compelled to withdraw from Lebanon for one reason or another.

Today, that scenario has come to pass and these organizations have been activated. All the security events we are witnessing, from Nahr Al-Bared and Ain Al-Helwey to the roaming bombings across all regions of Lebanon, are part of the new-old Syrian plan to “destroy Lebanon over the heads of its people”, as the Syrian regime promised just before the International Tribunal was established, and to “transform Lebanon into a swamp of blood”, as the confessions of arrested Fatah Al-Islam members stated before the Lebanese judiciary.

The Syrian regime has made three errors: First, by not realizing that terror is a double-edged sword that will sooner or later turn against its purveyor. Second, by believing that it can cover up for its previous crimes by committing new ones. And third, when it underestimated the power, skills and cohesion of the Lebanese army, and thinking that the military performance of the Lebanese Army will be like the political performance of the Lebanese political establishment.

But the Lebanese regime has itself compounded its many mistakes with new ones, including accepting the principle of separating between the Army and a terrorist organization by using other terrorist organizations. This entails, first, a recognition of the legitimacy of these organizations, and second, bringing harm to the standing of the Lebanese Army and the dignity of the nation, both of which go hand in hand.

It is often the fate of the armies to bear the burden – and filth – of the political process. For the Lebanese Army, it has the added burden to fight more than one enemy and on more than one front...and be victorious.

May God bless and guide the Army, and may He keep it the shield of Lebanon and the pride of the nation.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

June 8, 2007