



The Guardians of the Cedars Party - The Movement for Lebanese Nationalism issued the following message:

On the occasion of the Blessed Feast of Al-Adha, we extend to all the Lebanese the most gracious greetings and best wishes, asking God to let it be a harbinger of bounty and blessings to them, and of security, safety and prosperity to Lebanon.

We also take the opportunity of Independence Day to wish for the Lebanese people that by next year Lebanon would have achieved a full and real independence, recovered its free decision-making completely from the hands of neighboring countries near and far, put an end to foreign interferences in its internal affairs, and succeeded in clearing its skies from the dark clouds of internal tensions, sectarian conflicts, the clanging of weapons, and the dissonant voices beating the drums of war and calling for strife and the elimination of others.

It is imperative to note that Independence Day is not merely a symbolic commemoration that is limited to a holiday where schools and institutions shut their doors, military parades are held, and wreaths are placed on tombs. Independence Day is the embodiment of the prestige of the State and its absolute authority over all its soil and its people, and its active presence among the nations.

So how can we celebrate Independence Day while there still are mini-states on Lebanese soil acting independently from the State, while there still are armies independent from the national army, and while there still are people threatening to cut off the hands of others the moment the sword of justice is brandished in their face? How can we be independent and there are other countries that share with us the selection of the President of our Republic, the formation of our governments, and the determination of our foreign and domestic policies???

Genuine independence, of which the Lebanese dream, is achieved when the phenomenon of the mini-states and alternative armies disappears; when the Lebanese State recovers its free decision-making in matters of war and peace, without a partner or intruder; when serial political assassinations and security breakdowns stop; when the "big wigs" are subjected to the rule of law before the ordinary citizen; when criminals face justice no matter how important they

might be; and when rights are returned to their rightful owners as happens in countries that are truly independent, in substance not just in form.

The Lebanese people dream of an independence that brings back a dignified life to every citizen of this country; where no poor is left without livelihood and no modest income families are left to fend for themselves; where no child or elderly is left without shelter; where no sick person is left unable to pay for his or her medicine; and where no young man or woman is left anxious about their future and made to stand in lines at foreign embassies eager to emigrate...

Accordingly, to be consistent with reason and to express our rejection of our painful reality, we call on all honorable Lebanese to suspend their participation in those celebrations until the day that our independence becomes real independence.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

November 19, 2010