



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

The streak of fires has continued unabated these past few days, striking several regions and peaking last Sunday when dozens of fires broke out and devastated wide areas of forests and age-old trees, turning them into ashes. If not for the zeal of the residents and the soldiers who fought the fires with the primitive means at their disposal, and the rains that followed, the flames would have consumed entire villages and houses. What is worrisome about this situation is that this criminal series that is gradually eating up at Lebanon's natural wealth of forests is for the most part a deliberate act, according to official sources, and a systematic one, according to our sources. To date, not one of those criminals, intent on converting green Lebanon into a black desolate landscape out of hatred and jealousy, has been arrested.

As usual, officials in Lebanon attribute the dereliction of their duties in putting out the fires to the lack of rains, the ruggedness of the terrain, the paucity in capabilities, and such other pretexts that no longer convince anyone. Of course, they express regrets and denounce the perpetrators, and indulge in their never-ending litanies that do not do anything to put an end to what is basically a deliberate criminal act of sabotage targeting this time Lebanon's natural resources, now that the entity, the identity and the institutions of the country have been rendered dysfunctional. We believe that the perpetrator is one and the same, hailing from the desert hinterland beyond the Lebanese mountains, and who for decades has acted to obliterate Lebanon. Having nearly completed the political obliteration of the country, he is now seeking to transform Lebanon into a desert by sapping at its natural beauty. With a soul full of anger, hatred and ugliness, this enemy of Lebanon is now seeking to physically burn Lebanon into an ugly desert that will, perhaps, then be better assimilated into its so-called Arab environment!!!

If the State is impotent at protecting the forests of Lebanon from genocide, what is preventing it from protecting its mountains against the quarries that continue to devastate and destroy the mountainsides, turning them into bald deserts that are no less ugly than the grim faces of the politicians, some of whom own the quarries? Not to mention the "stunning" achievements of the State in the provision of electricity, which remains elusive, rationed, and utterly out of synch with the modern world, and which has cost upwards of \$20 billion, or about a third of the public debt!!! Or even in the area of running water, since the taps of Lebanese homes have been dry for generations, while hundreds of rivers and torrents cascade down the mountain ravines of Lebanon to flow straight into the sea and into the neighboring countries, except our very own Lebanon!!

Meanwhile, the government is absent, yet unbroken; present, yet dysfunctional. Parliament too is on forced leave, awaiting a resolution to the "False Witnesses" farce, while the country's leaders roam the globe, begging outsiders for foreign solutions to problems whose solutions can only be internal.

What we really fear, if the situation persists in its downward spiral, is for this Garden of Eden that Lebanon once was, to turn into a Fourth World country, abandoned by its people in utter disgust and despair, leaving it into the hands of foreigners, outsiders and aliens. Even scarier is the total silence of the Lebanese people themselves over what is going on around them and at their expense. Mute like Neanderthals, content in their servility and subservience, the Lebanese people express no anger and seem unable to rebel against those politicians who are leading them to certain death, like sheep to the slaughter.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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