



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

The Arab Initiative: Prejudiced, Lame, and Hollow

The Arab initiative for Syria is not only late, but it is lame and void, much as the Arab League and its likes are.

It is prejudiced because it equates the executioner with the victim, in the words of the Syrian National Council, instead of siding with the victim and categorically condemning the barbaric massacres which the Syrian regime continues to perpetrate against its own people for close to eight months now.

It is lame because it has elected to proceed against the course of history, taking a winding path leading nowhere but to an impasse. As such, the Arab initiative rests on dialogue between a regime that has lost its legitimacy and *raison d'être* on one hand, and a people that have spoken up, made up their minds, and decided to take their revolution until the bitter end on the other hand. In other words, the Syrian people are way ahead of the Arab League.

It is hollow because its proposal contains neither realistic provisions and process that guarantee a radical solution to the crisis, nor a mechanism for implementation on the ground.

If the Arab League were serious in its effort, the following 4-point proposal ought to be adopted:

- 1- Public and express recognition of the Syrian National Council, and of the loss of legitimacy by the Syrian regime in its reliance on a bloody security solution to remain in power.
- 2- Suspend Syria's membership in the Arab League Council until the regime falls, as was done with Libya.
- 3- Political, diplomatic and economic pressure on Russia and China to force them into changing their position of support to the Syrian regime.
- 4- Request the urgent intervention of the international community to protect the Syrian people from systematic genocide in the manner it sees fit. The world can no longer remain idle in view of this ongoing massacre.

Any proposal outside this framework is futile, and more critically, it gives more time for this regime to continue escalating its repressive course, refrain from its much promised reforms, and survive longer under the cover of the Arab intervention.

We speak from our bitter experience with the Assad regime, as the Lebanese endured Syrian repression for many long years, and they know well the mastery of that regime in the skills of evasion, procrastination and paying lip service which it played with the world for 40

years before it was exposed. The Lebanese also know, more than anyone else, the history of the Arab League which is littered with failures, leaving the Lebanese bleed for decades in the claws of the Syrian monster. Were it not for the Cedars Revolution of 2005, the Syrian occupation would still be extant to this hour. It is no secret that the Lebanese crisis would escalate every time the Arab League tried to fix it, and we bear witness to this fact.

Once again, we advise the free people of Syria not to count on the Arab League in any way, and we know they will not. They should rely on their courage, persistence and their own strength to achieve their objective.

Lebanon, at your service
Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz
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