



## Amnesty Law is Dirty Tricks

The Amnesty Law passed by Parliament last Wednesday concerning the status of the Lebanese refugees in Israel is rejected wholesale.

First, because the law is one thing on the surface but quite another in substance, as it "covers all the citizens who sought shelter in Israel, except those who joined the South Lebanon Army ranks and those with military or security files, in the past or the present", according to the MP who submitted the bill. This means that the amnesty applies only to women and children who do not need such a law to begin with.

Second, the law hides a secret agenda, both in its timing and its significance, since it appears to have been designed specifically to short-circuit the general amnesty bill previously submitted by MP Sami Gemayel.

Third, the law is paying token lip service so that some Maronite leaders can brag about their concern for this national issue and their desire to bring closure to it.

Once again, we reaffirm that those honorable citizens reject any pity or charity, and their cause is not a commodity for trading or bartering. They are the ones who stand as the accusers and not the other way around, for they have discharged their duty to defend the nation and the state at a time when the land in the south had been abandoned and the state was absent for more than a quarter century. And if there has to be a prosecution, then the first to be prosecuted is the lame and derelict state which abandoned them when they needed it the most, yet is today judging them, instead of honoring them and holding itself accountable for its dereliction of duty.

Accordingly, those honorable citizens of Lebanon deserve every respect and gratitude, and they demand that those claiming concern for their just cause, especially the Maronite leadership, at least some of it, to cease and desist from dickering with their cause for cheap political gains that have become transparent to everyone, and to remove this file from the ongoing political bazaar.

Lebanon, at your service

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