



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

There is no point in jumping on the bandwagon and joining the ongoing contest over how the previous government fell, the charade of parliamentary consultations, and the coup that converted a majority into a minority and vice-versa, under pressure and coercion, simply because everybody knows that the democracy in practice nowadays in Lebanon is discretionary at times, consensual at other times, and a mere formality most of the time. All manner of political abominations have been perpetrated in its name.

And before we cry foul over the previous government's fall, we ask on behalf of the silent majority: What accomplishments did that government achieve during its tenure, other than further national fracturing, a deepening of the chasm between sects and religions, a deterioration of the living and social conditions, and a rise in prices of commodities, fuels and food, not to mention Ali Baba's caves that are extant in all government institutions, beginning with the electricity cave and its permanent outages and rationing. In fairness, we register one positive redeeming value to that government, which is that its head stands by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, despite the pressures he has endured locally and regionally to abolish it, and even if he does so from a personal standpoint, as he is the first concerned by its establishment and the continuation of its operation.

Before the welcome the forthcoming government, should it be formed, and bet our hopes on it, we do ask: Doesn't the prime minister-designate belong to the same traditional political school that led the country down the abyss of its political, material, and moral destruction? And what can such a new government achieve, in light of the tense near-explosive situation, other than generously make verbal promises that have been regurgitated over and over from one term to another, and prepare a ministerial statement copied from the previous statements that will soon a worthless paper like its predecessors?

With grave worry, we ask: Can this government free itself from the grip of the "armed mini-state" that brought it to power? Can it find middle ground between the state's logic and the mini-state's logic? And what is the fate of the UN resolutions, particularly 1559 that mandates the disarming of the mini-state?

With serious concern, we ask: How will the forthcoming government deal with the issue of the Special Tribunal? Will it have the courage to support it in order to safeguard truth and justice, and preserve Lebanon's relationship with the international community? Or will it submit to the will of the "armed mini-state", and commit the monumental foolishness of disengaging itself from the Tribunal, with all the dire consequences that will ensue, the least of which being becoming ostracized like the Gaza government, and for Lebanon to become isolated from the world, recognized only by the Syrian and Iranian regimes and the North Korean government???

Many questions are on the mind of the Lebanese people these days. Huge question marks loom on the horizon. Everyone is apprehensive about the future and fearful for Lebanon which is headed on a downhill path whose endpoint is unknown. No one knows when this temple will fall on everyone's head!

May God protect Lebanon first against its own people's treachery, then against its enemies.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

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