



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

The figures of the new parliamentary majority appear to be mounting a fierce campaign aiming not only to quench their greed for the largest number possible of ministerial portfolios – particularly those "fat" portfolios – but also to change the existing political equilibrium as a prelude to a gradual toppling of the entire Lebanese system. This process would begin by capturing the highest office of the Presidency, having now secured the second and third highest offices, and end with official joining Lebanon to the Syrian-Iranian alliance with all the deadly consequences that this would entail, most damaging being the conversion of Lebanon as the spearhead in any future confrontation with Israel and its disengagement from the Special Tribunal investigating the 2005 Hariri assassination.

This scenario is being discussed by both Lebanese and outside political circles, all of whom fear its stepwise implementation on the ground, particularly since the new minority lacks the cohesion, experience, political acumen, and military capabilities that the new majority possesses.

Yet, and fortunately, this scenario now tickling the fancy of the new parliamentary majority faces its own numerous hurdles. First, the historic Lebanese construct rejects this kind of coups and the domination of the country by one party, a common feature in the neighboring countries with their one-party regimes. Second, the regional forces opposing the Syrian-Iranian alliance will no doubt seek to unravel this scenario by all means at their disposal, not out of fear for Lebanon, but rather out of fear for themselves at the fever of the Iranian revolution reaching their shores and borders. Third, international pressures may climax with the imposition of economic sanctions on Lebanon, along with its isolation and political, economic, and financial boycott.

We therefore stand at a historic crossroads that will determine the future of the country for the next several years whose duration may vary with the circumstances. The responsibility of the President of the Republic vis-à-vis this scheme against the country is huge inasmuch as it is decisive, given that he is the head of state and protector of the constitution. This responsibility requires him to stand up to this dangerous plot and nip it in the bud, which he can do with two actions: First, to assign the hot flashpoint issues, such as the Special Tribunal and the militia weapons, to the National Dialogue Commission; and second, to accelerate the formation of a new neutral government through an agreement with the Prime Minister-designate – himself a self-described neutral figure – over a government consisting entirely of technocrats, as we have previously called for. This government will focus exclusively on addressing the people's mounting and pressing concerns, namely the economic, social, administrative problems facing the Lebanese people, as well as combating the rampant administrative corruption, all of which would be shielded from the chronic political squabbling of the politicians.

The Lebanese people expect no less than a courageous and uncommon stance by the President during this crucial juncture, short of which the winds of change swirling all around the region will sooner or later come ashore in Lebanon and turn the tables on everyone.

Lebanon, at your service
Abu Arz
February 11, 2011