



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

While the princes of politics in Lebanon are distracted with forming a new government and jostling over shares and ministerial portfolios, the people remain indifferent to the whole affair because they are convinced that whatever new government emerges, under the existing sectarian system, will be no better than its predecessors and may actually be worst if it manages to disavow the Special Tribunal.

The Lebanese people are in fact eyeing a youth movement launched recently in the streets of Beirut demanding the toppling of the sectarian system and its replacement with a secular system. It is our opinion that the mere emergence of this movement, unprecedented in our contemporary history, is a positive sign and a glimmer of hope shining in an otherwise dark, long and sealed tunnel that has engulfed the entire nation for a long time.

Among its positive aspects is, first, that it has exposed to public opinion the defects of the sectarian system and put its finger right on the wound of the Lebanese tragedy, inasmuch as the pestilence of sectarianism has been, and continues to be, the mother of all maladies to afflict this country, underlying all its crises, divisions, disasters, despair, emigration and futile wars since the Ottoman era to our time. Second, it has demonstrated that the young Lebanese have attained an advanced level of political maturity, allowing them to be pioneers in the process of saving the nation at the first opportunity given to them. Third, it carries in it the promising nucleus of a popular revolution that is capable of developing, growing and changing along the same patterns of the revolutions currently sweeping the region. And fourth, it is an independent grassroots movement that does not depend on an existing organization or political movement, particularly the March 14 and March 8 movements, as was articulated by one of the leaders of the movement, nor has it been so far driven by personal motives but only by purely national motives.

In line with our own convictions, which have called since 1975 for the secularization of the Lebanese State, and based on our deep-seated desire for the success of this movement and our own modest experience in political action, we hope that the young people of the movement will heed the following recommendations:

First, and foremost, that their ranks remain united and immune to attempts to politicize, penetrate, exploit, or contain the movement by the veterans of the Lebanese political establishment who hope to abort their movement like they did with the Cedars Revolution.

Second, that they remain wise and stay away from recklessness and improvisation, that their movement maintains a high level of sophistication, and that they adopt perseverance as a basis for their struggle because it is a guarantee of success.

Third, that they focus their slogans on toppling the princes of sectarianism first, i.e. the political figures who protect and nurture the sectarian system, as the necessary condition for the elimination of the sectarian system, because it is impossible for those princes to consent to reform laws that call for eliminating their own power base.

As we and the honorable people of Lebanon express our support for this movement, we wish them every success in achieving their desired objectives, as they perhaps will lead us one day to building a civilized modern state that fulfills the aspirations and dreams of our people and our future generations.

Lebanon, at your service

Abu Arz

March 11, 2011