



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

Ban Ki-moon is Welcome in Lebanon

The collapse of the building in Ashrafiyeh over its residents, with the dead, injured, and displaced this accident caused, reflects the failure of the state by all measures. The Lebanese State is remote and distant from the very people it ought to serve; it is derelict in discharging its duties; and yet it appears on the scene following disasters, as if to survey the ruins and shed crocodile tears over the bodies of the destitute victims, strewn as they are amidst the debris and under the rubble.

The honorable Lebanese reject a State that holds no one to account and is itself beyond accountability. They reject this forsaken, dislocated, and deformed State that is similar to its custodians. They will not remain silent until it collapses over them like the Ashrafiyeh building, and is replaced by a new State that rises up to Lebanon's true greatness and the lofty aspirations of its people.

The honorable Lebanese also consider Mr. Ban Ki-moon's recent visit to Lebanon as historic, and they support all the positions he expressed during his auspicious and most welcome visit, as he demonstrated that he cared more for the country than its own rulers, particularly his positions of denouncing the illegal weapons and supporting the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The honorable Lebanese reaffirm their complete confidence in the United Nations Organization and its resolutions on Lebanon. They reject casting doubts on the UN and its institutions, and condemn the offensive campaigns against it by those who stand to lose from its actions. The Lebanese people express their gratitude for its generous sponsorship of this country by issuing dozens of resolutions and dispatching thousands of soldiers to its soil from 1978 to date.

The support by the honorable Lebanese of this international body and its secretary general is founded on several facts:

First: All international tribunals established by the UN since its inception, and which have handled several criminal dossiers, are known for their transparency, fairness, integrity, and high professionalism. No sane individual can ever think that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon can deviate from this constant foundation. In contrast, all Lebanese tribunals have been impotent and incompetent at handling any case relating to the political crimes that have occurred on Lebanese soil since the assassination of Kamal Jumblatt and Salim Lauzi in 1976. It is therefore incumbent upon the regime in power in Lebanon to fully cooperate with the Tribunal and uphold all the commitments it made to it, until the truth and the circumstances behind all the political assassinations have been elucidated, both before and after the assassination of Rafik Hariri. Indeed, the future of Lebanon is intimately tied to this truth.

Second: The charge by some that the UN is an obedient tool in the hands of the US and Israel is a false fabricated charge that is refuted by all the evidence on the ground. Such evidence in the recent past: The failure of the US, and with it all the Western nations, to

push for a UN resolution condemning the crimes of the Syrian regime, despite all the efforts and pressure it has mustered for the past ten months; The failure of Israel, backed by the US, to prevent the UN from recognizing the Palestinian State with a significant majority.

Third: The concern expressed by Mr. Ban Ki-moon for Lebanon on account of the illegal weapons is well merited, and does express the sentiment of the majority of the Lebanese people who worry that those weapons will lead the country, yet again, into catastrophic adventures in the midst of the seething security situation in the Middle East region. The illegal weapons in Lebanon are seen by the Lebanese people as the primary and greatest obstacle standing in the way of the rise of the State and its civilian and military institutions.

In conclusion, we say to Mr. Ban Ki-moon and to the venerable institution he represents: Thank you, and you are always welcome to Lebanon.

Lebanon, at your service
Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz
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