



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

We believe, and so do those who understand the Syrian regime, that Mr. Kofi Annan's initiative is on its way to certain failure, like the Arab initiative before it, despite the show of support by the international community and the "consent" of the Syrian regime and its friends to it. The first reason is that the two initiatives have fallen into the same trap, which is to consider the Syrian regime as capable of making specific concessions leading to a peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis, when the reality is that the Stalinist nature of the regime and its tribal makeup are antithetical to such a solution. The second reason is that the opposition is itself unable to agree to dialogue with a regime immersed up to its eyeballs in the blood of its people, lest that opposition loses the trust of its people and its raison d'être.

Consequently, we believe that the opposition should ready itself to a protracted military and political war, which may last persist until after the French and American elections, or sooner if there are changes in the regional and international political arena. This makes it incumbent on the opposition to pay immediate and urgent attention to the internal situation in Syria before worrying about settling its disputes and agreeing, as it were, on the sex of angels. Which means that the opposition should mobilize all its capabilities to secure the required support to the armed revolution and supply it with the much needed weapons and equipment, in order to hold on to its positions, defend the rebel cities and villages, and prevent them from being overrun by the regime, as happened in Baba Amro. Absent all this, the opposition will turn into a defanged and declawed nominal opposition, or a noisy chatter without any muscle on the ground, even if it succeeds in unifying its ranks.

The Istanbul Conference today represents the last opportunity for the opposition to prove its existence and impose its terms on its friends in order to bring forth strong and effective decisions that will end this open-ended slaughter.

We say this because the friends of Syria, as few as they are, are more serious, more effective, and more determined in their handling of the Syrian file than the "Friends of Syria", as numerous as may be. The Russian-Chinese-Iranian axis has not only backed its ally diplomatically, it has weighed in on its side with all its military, political and logistical might; it has dispatched experts, intelligence, and security services to the heart of the battle, not to mention its war vessels docking in the Tartous harbor in a clear message to the West that the Libyan blow will not happen again and that the ongoing cold war over Syria may turn into a hot war if need be. Meanwhile, the United States is still talking about providing the opposition with humanitarian aid and communications gear!!! With friends like this, who needs enemies?

Lebanon, at your service
Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz
April 1, 2012