



September 20, 2012

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

His Holiness the Pope's visit to Lebanon came at an opportune time to shed a glimmer of hope through the thick wall of anxiety, tension and fanaticism that has besieged the entire Middle East.

All we hope is that his call for love, peace and coexistence between the various sects and religions, and the eradication of extremism, is heard by officials and decision-makers before everyone embarks on a global war we all know how it begins, but no one knows how it ends.

Accordingly, we join our voice to those denouncing the offensive film against Islam and anything that disrespects the sacred religious symbols. However, we believe that the violent reactions that ensued the dissemination of the said film, with their vociferous demonstrations, the breaching and burning of Western embassies and consulates, and the murder of diplomats, have harmed the image of Islam more than the film itself, particularly that the American people and government are not responsible for the film's production or dissemination. Moreover, the slain ambassador was a personal friend and supporter of the Libyan people during and after the revolution against Qaddhafi.

These violent and unjustified acts have also harmed the Arab Spring revolutions in general, and the Syrian revolution in particular which is in a dire need for Western support, despite the latter's obvious inaction, in the face of the Eastern camp that made up its mind from the start of the Syrian crisis and decided, with all its capabilities, to stand by the Syrian regime.

In this context, observers have wondered why there haven't been equally loud demonstrations to protest the daily Syrian massacres and express solidarity with the Syrian people who have endured 18 months of genocide whose ferocity and barbarity have not been seen since the age of the Mongol and Tatar invasions.

Even more astounding is the paralysis of the international community over this bloody crisis, and its dubious silence over the systematic daily killing, as if we do not live in the 21st century under the protection of the Human Rights Charter specifically created to protect people and their legitimate rights to freedom and dignity, but rather in the dark ages under the law of the jungle where might is right and where there is no place for the weak in the world of the powerful!!!

Despite everything, we can assert that the Syrian revolution, with its tenacity, its persistence, and the rare courage of its people, will inevitably be victorious at the end of the

day, because it is a revolution by right against wrong, and because the people's voice emanates from God's voice, as we believe and continue to reiterate.

Lebanon, at your service

Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz

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