



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

Ibrahimi in Annan' Footsteps

Ever since he was appointed as the UN envoy to Syria, Ibrahimi keeps repeating ad nauseam that his mission is virtually impossible, that the situation is very bad, that the crisis is escalating, and grave dangers loom over the Syrian people and the peoples of the region and the world.

Ibrahimi is not saying anything new. We all know the gravity of the crisis and its likely regional and international repercussions, given Syria's strategic location on the geopolitical map in this part of the world. But for this man to keep repeating these facts at every opportunity makes us believe that he is anticipating matters and is preemptively shirking his responsibility in the failure of his mission, in a manner of "I told you so".

The question that begs itself here is why did the Arab mission fail, followed by the first, and now perhaps the second, UN mission? The answer, as we see it, regardless of the fissure in the Security Council and the wavering Western position, is the faulty diagnosis of the nature of the Syrian crisis as if it were a struggle for power between the regime and the opposition, and the belief that the solution is in a dialogue between the two sides leading to some formula that is agreeable to both.

This faulty diagnosis has led to a faulty remedy, and hence to the inevitable failure of those initiatives.

Arab and international envoys have refrained from describing the Syrian crisis realistically and accurately, either intentionally to placate Russia and China, or out of ignorance. They have refused to acknowledge that it is a people's revolution against their regime, in the fullest sense of the meaning of a revolution, namely that it is not a rebellion by one terrorist group or groups, as the regime claims, and it is not a civil war as others say it is.

A revolution, in its strictest scientific definition, is an overwhelming popular movement whose first objective is to topple the existing regime, and its second objective is to replace it with another regime over which the people agree to in the post-toppling phase.

As for the mistakes committed by the envoys as a result of their faulty diagnosis, there are several including: First, drawing up a 6-point plan, instead of a one-point plan calling for the Assad regime to step down from power as happened with the Libyan and Egyptian revolutions. Second, treating Assad as if he were part of the solution, when in fact he is the core of the problem, placing the envoys at his disposal, and cajoling him into agreeing to a ceasefire and renouncing the military option. In the end, he let them down, which made them look like trying to cajole the wolf into not devouring the herd. Third, they have begun discussing the post-Assad phase before he falls, which made him fiercely repress the rebellious cities and villages and perfecting their destruction over their residents with unprecedented savagery. Fourth, they demanded that the opposition engage the regime in a dialogue, which goes against the principle of any revolution, namely to bring down the regime and not negotiate with it. And fifth, they continue, even now, a search for a political

solution with a tyrant who understands only the language of force and makes a mockery of all political solutions so long as his military option remains possible. Examples of such tyrants abound in history, most recently being Mouammar Qaddafi.

From all the preceding, we conclude that Ibrahimi's mission is doomed to fail if it follows in Kofi Annan's footsteps. The final say belongs to the rebels on the ground. Syria's future is in their hands, and so is

Lebanon's future after it is freed from the grip of this tyrant who controlled its destiny for more than four continuous decades.

Lebanon, at your service

Etienne Sacre Abu Arz

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