



## Political Alzheimer's

In his latest speech, the Secretary General of Hezbollah overstepped all the symbols as well as the civilian and military institutions of the State when he proclaimed his determination to receive advanced weapons from Syria that shatter the strategic balance with Israel. He has thus violated all United Nations resolutions pertaining to Lebanon, particularly resolutions 1559 and 1701, and is, yet again, dragging the country into a new war with calamitous consequences.

This statement did not suffice it seems, for he stressed that fighting alongside the Syrian regime – which is counter to the policy of dissociation from the events in Syria – is a national duty in defense of the "Resistance Axis" for the liberation of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Sanctuary. The implied subtext is that the road to Palestine now goes through Damascus, just as it went through the Shebaa Farms, and before them through Jounieh and Uyun Al-Siman, much like all the slogans that have destroyed Lebanon without liberating an inch of the land of Palestine.

We do understand, and with us the vast majority of the Lebanese people, that this Party has its own convictions on local and regional matters, just like all other political parties in Lebanon. But to hijack the country, monopolize its decision-making, sidestep its official institutions, and push it into unwanted conflicts and wars, these are matters we neither understand nor endorse.

Therefore, now that the State has become impotent at defending itself and its sovereign decisions; now that this Party has become stronger than the State which it effectively and theoretically rules; now that the Party acts while the State merely reacts;

Now that the dissociation policy has dismally failed, and Lebanon has become one of the most involved countries in the Syrian war, thus liable to suffer catastrophic consequences;

And whereas the Lebanese people in their vast majority refuse to once again pay the price of the Arab-Iranian and Arab-Israeli conflicts, thus rejecting to shoulder alone the responsibility of liberating Jerusalem on behalf of Arabs and Persians;

And whereas the 30-year old state of negative and coercive coexistence existing between the State and Hezbollah can no longer continue indefinitely;

For all those reasons, we believe that the ruling regime in Lebanon now faces two choices. One: It can rise up against this state of affairs and embark on recovering its sovereignty over all the country, beginning with the illegal armed mini-states, aided by the United Nations in enforcing its decisions under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter; Two: the regime should just withdraw from the stage and let Hezbollah assume alone the full responsibility of its military adventures before Lebanese and international public opinions, and without benefiting from the State legitimacy under which it has long hidden in executing its own agenda.

Some might say that this proposition is illogical and unrealistic. But are any of the patch-up solutions now in place logical and realistic? What logic is there in maintaining this anomalous situation that has dissolved the State and dismantled the country? Doesn't political science tell us that extraordinary crises require extraordinary solutions???

Lebanon's fundamental problem is not Hezbollah; it is the political establishment that suffers from sterility or "political Alzheimer's" for it has paved the way for Hezbollah to become a state above the State.

Someone once rightfully said, "Lebanon is a great cause shouldered by political dwarfs."

Lebanon, at your service  
Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz  
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