



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

Right Makes Might

The Assad regime was able to rule Lebanon and Syria for decades not because it was a giant, but because its opponents were dwarfs. It was able to play a role bigger than its size by virtue not only of its cunning and strength, but also because of the positions of the West, most notably the US who, in its shortsightedness at times and evasiveness at other times, but mostly by its lack of resolve, relinquished its presumed role in protecting freedom, democracy and human rights, a role it brags about at every bend and turn. The United States essentially flung the doors open for the Syrian dictator to tyrannize the Lebanese and Syrian peoples without any deterrence whatsoever for four long decades.

During his occupation of Lebanon, Assad violated all norms, abolished public freedoms, tore apart the deep-rooted democratic process, and crippled the constitutional institutions in Lebanon. He killed, displaced, and destroyed everything he could lay his criminal hands on. All of this took place with the obscene and shocking silence of the international community, indeed with a brazen collusion coupled with blatant hypocrisy. As an example, the US administration, joined by the chorus of the free world, repeated every day and for the thirty years of the occupation the same refrain: "We respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Lebanon", while Syrian rocket launchers were pounding the homes of the Lebanese over their heads, and Assad was choosing the Presidents of the Lebanese Republic and extending their terms as he pleased!!

The same scenario is unfolding today in Syria, though on a larger scale and a faster pace due to the use by the regime of more lethal weapons in killing his own people than those he used in Lebanon, thus crossing all the red lines established by international norms. And in order not to anger the international community, Assad has used the approach of gradual violence, beginning with light weapons, then medium and heavy weapons, and ending with chemical weapons which the US administration deemed a red line, as though to underline that killing people with conventional weapons such as mortars, rocket launchers, and the air force with its vacuum and cluster bombs, its explosive drums, and SCUD ballistic missiles is a green line!!!

Such positions that implicitly insult people's intelligence and make light of their lives prove one again that relying on the international community, especially the free world, does not guarantee a positive outcome. Particularly since the free world has been ever so slow in providing the Syrian opposition with advanced weapons to counter the regime's overwhelming arsenal, under pretext that such weapons might end up in the wrong hands. Here we ask Mr. Obama and his partners, on behalf of the free people in Lebanon and Syria: Is the arsenal now in the regime's hands, including weapons of mass destruction and the chemical weapons stockpile, in safe hands now??? Is this regime, which has sponsored terrorism for 40 years and exported it to countries near and far, any less dangerous than Al-Nusra Front and other extremist organizations??? Weren't these same organizations and their sisters operating under the regime's orders in executing its terror policies in Lebanon,

Iraq, Jordan and others before turning against him after the outbreak of the Syrian revolution??? "The deafest people are those who refuse to listen", says the French proverb.

And now, after the Syrian regime has crossed the red line set by the US President and used chemical weapons as confirmed by several trusted official sources, the US President is trying to backtrack on his pledges by casting doubts on the fact that these weapons were used and claiming that he doesn't know yet who used them and when and how, and that he has ordered that a strong investigation – note the word "strong" – to uncover the truth, as if there were various and numerous kinds of investigations!!!

Still, President Obama's tone has risen over the past two days. He has started talking about changing the rules of the game and lifting the ban on deadly weapons he intends to send to the opposition. What we fear, however, is that this is merely a message aiming at intimidating the Russians and their ally Assad. The first objective of this message is to pressure the latter not to repeat his use of chemical weapons in order not to further embarrass the US administration and undermine its credibility before the US and international public opinions, since the US administration is already in a critical position with the Iranian nuclear file. The second objective of the message is to improve the American negotiating posture prior to the upcoming meeting between Presidents Obama and Putin, in an attempt to convince the latter of the need for Assad to step down as a condition for any peaceful resolution to the Syrian crisis.

The next days or weeks will reveal the true intentions and positions vis-à-vis this tragedy – a stigma on the international community's forehead, as President Obama himself described it, ignoring that he bears a great share of responsibility for its continuation and escalation, and the spread of its danger to the entire region.

We reiterate our admiration for this glorious revolution and the magnificent achievements it has so far made, despite its modest weapons capabilities, the collusion of everyone against it, and the fact that it is alone. We are certain that it will ultimately be victorious because "right makes might."

Lebanon, at your service
Etienne Sacre – Abu Arz
May 5, 2013