



لقاء سيدة الجبل
علم وخبر رقم 143

Statement
July 11, 2022

“Saydet El Jabal Gathering” held its weekly meeting and issued the following statement:

The Lebanese people are trapped in a vicious circle of empty promises and false hopes created by Lebanese political powers. Through this approach, these powers are mastering the policy of escaping forward, convinced that it will exonerate them from their responsibilities while, on the opposite, it denounces them even more.

They promised the Lebanese people that parliamentary elections would lead to a great change capable of moving Lebanon from collapse to recovery; although these elections only consolidated the current balance of powers and reproduced the same authoritarian settlements; while their lust for power is still disrupting the Government formation and obstructing the implementation of reforms, a prerequisite for unlocking the assistance of the international community and the Arab community to Lebanon.

What applies to Parliamentary elections also applies to Presidential elections. Political powers promise the Lebanese citizens change, and trick them into believing that electing a new President is the key solution for the Lebanese crisis.

Saydet el Jabal Gathering is committed to, and calls for respecting the constitutional deadlines for the election of a new President of the Republic. It invites political powers keen on protecting the interests of Lebanon to conduct a comprehensive revision of their political positions and gather around one project in the presidential electoral fray: lifting the Iranian occupation of Lebanon.

The Gathering stresses again on the importance of uniting and calling for lifting the Iranian occupation of Lebanon which is the only way to partake in presidential elections on sound political bases. This will reshape a new political field committed to a national project that will be the guiding principle for the Presidential elections or any upcoming elections.

Saydet El Jabal gathering reiterates the importance of creating a political assembly around clear patriotic principles to ensure electoral success, instead of uniting around electoral interests which would not help in drawing a national political direction nor would it lead to the formation of a national coalition.

The gathering calls on political powers to assume their ethical and political responsibilities by giving the priority over all other political subprojects to lifting the Iranian occupation. It also urges political powers to stop making more pledges to the Lebanese people and creating false hope, as it is a clear form of self-condemnation.

Statement
July 18, 2022

The Saydet el Jabal Gathering calls on the "sovereign" parties and forces to break the traditional approach to the presidential elections

"Saydet el Jabal Gathering" held its weekly meeting and issued the following statement:

The presidential elections will be held at an extremely complicated juncture internally, regionally, and internationally with the renewal of the cold war between the West against Russia and China.

The visits of US President Joe Biden to Israel and Saudi Arabia, followed by the Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Iran prove that the region became a major part of the geography of this war that will have huge repercussions on strong economies, so how about its impact on Lebanon, this country that is already suffering from economic collapse and is embroiled in a complicated political crisis accentuated by Hezbollah holding sway over Lebanon and subordinating the country to Iran's priorities.

Considering the dire and dangerous Lebanese situation, Hezbollah looks at the upcoming presidential elections as a station to prove its stranglehold on the Lebanese majority, the Arabs, and the world, instead of looking at elections as an opportunity to change the head of the State which can open a door towards solving the deep Lebanese crisis. Hezbollah is therefore transforming the presidency into a political platform it uses on its own behalf and as an Iranian proxy to promote both their roles in the new cold war.

It is envisaged that Hezbollah would raise the level of confrontation with the USA and the Arabs in Lebanon through nominating the Marada leader Sleiman Frangieh or the Free Patriotic Movement leader Gebran Bassil as candidate for presidency, or any of its other allies, on the basis that it has the upper hand in these elections where Hezbollah considers itself the first voter, and those who want a President for Lebanon shall negotiate primarily with Hezbollah.

On the other hand, parties that consider themselves opposed to Hezbollah continue to wallow in a cycle of indecisiveness due to local and party related calculations, instead of seeking a common project based on which these presidential elections could be held to isolate Lebanon from the cold war, which is a pressing national need. We need a president for Lebanon, the Arabs, and the world, not a president against Lebanon, the Arabs, and the world; a president able to uphold the historical idea of Lebanon translated in the constitution's preamble stipulating that Lebanon is a final homeland for its citizens, that it is Arab in its identity and in its affiliation and that there shall be no legitimacy for any authority that contradicts the pact of mutual existence.

In light of this dangerous situation for Lebanon's present and future, Saydet El Jabal Gathering calls on political powers, the Lebanese Forces, The Kataeb, the Renewal Bloc, the Progressive Socialist Party, and independent MPs to be aware of what is at stake and to assume their responsibilities in the upcoming presidential elections that are as important as the responsibility they had to win parliamentary elections. The Gathering urges them to walk away from their local preoccupations otherwise the Lebanese public opinion will hold accountable those who fail to deliver on their promises.

Statement
July 25, 2022

“Saydet el Jabal Gathering” held its weekly meeting and delivered the following statement:

Since the arrest of Moussa El Hage, Archbishop of Haifa and the Holy Land on July 18, Hezbollah has been trying, through its political and media tools, to make this case look like a strictly legal one with no political motivations behind it, although the truth is that it is a political case par excellence. It is as if Hezbollah, the Iranian agent, was indirectly saying through this case, that there is a national community that freed the Lebanese land, fought terrorism and is now handling the delimitation of maritime borders with Israel, while there is another community with a questionable national belonging trying to normalize ties with Israel.

This logic that Hezbollah is trying to consecrate is firmly condemned especially that it targets a national symbol that was entrusted, throughout history, with the protection of the Lebanese entity as a final homeland for its citizens, of the Arab identity of Lebanon and of coexistence, while the logic of Hezbollah violates the pact of mutual existence between the Lebanese and seriously threatens national unity.

History is a witness to the national positions that the Maronite Patriarchate took against all powers that occupied Lebanon, and is standing today against the Iranian occupation of Lebanon. The Patriarchate is therefore called not to frame the issue as a Christian one but to transform this case into an inclusive national cause because lifting the Iranian occupation of Lebanon is a national battle and is by no means exclusive to one sectarian community.

There will be no point in holding an international conference about Lebanon if its agenda is not strictly limited to the implementation of the Constitution, the Charter of National Reconciliation, and the UN resolutions 1559, 1701 and 1680...

Saydet el Jabal Gathering associates itself with Patriarch Bechara El Rai in his statement about sovereign MPs being our voice in the Lebanese Parliament, calling on them today more than ever to work on lifting the Iranian occupation from within the Constitutional institutions namely the Parliament.

Finally, the Gathering asks the Lebanese judiciary to summon the Secretary General of Hezbollah for questioning over Rafic Hariri assassination and other assassinations that were not investigated, including the latest killing of activist Lukman Slim and Joseph Bejjani, the May 7 coup, and the Beirut Port explosion.

Hezbollah shall also be questioned by the Lebanese judiciary about the source of its income and its formation of an armed group in the service of a foreign State which goes against the Lebanese Constitution and the Lebanese laws and is therefore, by all legal and linguistic standards, a clear case of a party acting as a foreign agent.

Statement
August 22, 2022

Saydet el Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting online with the participation of Ahmad Fatfat, Ahmad Ayach, Elie Kosayfi, Elie Kirillos, Elie Hajj, Antoine Andraos, Bahjat Salameh, Pierre Akl, Toufic Caspard, Joseph Karam, Habib Khoury, Housen Abboud, Khalil Toubia, Ralph Germanos, Rouba Kabbara, Rodrigue Naufal, Sami Chamoun, Serge Bou Gharios, Suzie Ziade, Tony Habib, Toubia Atallah, Atallah Wehbe, Fares Soueid, Fairuz Juday, Fathi El Yafi, Majed Karam, Maamoun Malak, Mayad Haidar, Norma Rizk, Nelly Kandil and Nabil Yazbeck, and issued the following statement:

Saydet El Jabal Gathering urgently calls for respecting the constitutional deadlines for the election of a new President of the Republic, and emphasizes the need for electing a President committed, in deeds not words, to the unity of Lebanon, the final homeland for its citizens, Arab in its identity, and to preserving mutual existence, and defining the internal and external boundaries of the State.

The Gathering considers that the first priority is to end the Iranian occupation of Lebanon, therefore it calls political powers to meet the National Council for Ending the Iranian Occupation of Lebanon halfway through the adoption of a roadmap leading to the election of a President capable of ending this occupation by committing to the golden trinity: unity of a final homeland for the Lebanese, Arab in its identity, or else the new elected candidate would be entrenching the Iranian presence in Lebanon, regardless of his personal profile or competencies.

For this reason, the Gathering calls for focusing the efforts on this fateful issue instead of drowning in many details and daily quarrels and disputes.

A final word to the Lebanese people: preserving Lebanon is your responsibility before being the responsibility of politicians, and for this reason you are invited to be aware and to keep up with the events step by step, because you will be the ones who will save Lebanon. Dismantling your homeland goes through pushing you into poverty, starvation, and immigration, while getting out of this historical deadlock requires first resisting against the Iranian occupation and ending it.

Statement
September 5, 2022

“Saydet El Jabal” Gathering held its periodic meeting online and issued the following statement:

With the constitutional deadline for the election of a President coming into effect, Lebanon enters one more time into a dangerous period on the political, social and security levels, with the return of the political assassinations threat at a critical crossroad: the dispute over the presidency in addition to the exacerbation of the collapse on the verge of winter internally, and the struggle over the nuclear agreement with Iran regionally.

Faced with this reality, the political powers represented in the Parliament are acting as if the Presidential vacuum was a fact, instead of addressing the risks and doing what is necessary for the elections to be held within the constitutional deadlines. These political powers are filling this downtime with many speeches and declarations that have no practical political translation. For all these reasons, the Gathering is addressing the opposition MPs specifically as they bear a double responsibility due to the promises of change that they made to the Lebanese on the eve and in the wake of the elections.

Nevertheless, we appreciate the positive development that took place amongst the deputies of change with the new positions they declared and that observe the same positions as Saydet El Jabal Gathering, to a certain extent.

The opposition MPs should either unite behind a Lebanese project for the Lebanese presidency against the Iranian project led by Hezbollah, or present their resignations as they have not been able to keep the promises they made to the Lebanese people.

The Gathering is astonished at the race for determining the characteristics of the next President, while these characteristics are already determined and set in the preamble of the Constitution and is based on the commitment of the President of the Republic to three pillars: Lebanon a final homeland to its citizens, the Arab identity of Lebanon, and coexistence.

These three pillars are the only roadmap for the election of a Lebanese President, as for the other roads, they will lead an Iranian President to Baabda Palace, and at that point the weeping and gnashing of teeth will not help.

Statement
September 12, 2022

“Saydet El Jabal” Gathering held its periodic meeting online and issued the following statement:

Once again, Hezbollah puts Lebanon amid spiraling tensions internally and regionally by challenging resolution 2650 aiming at extending the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in the South of Lebanon, to the extent of describing it as an occupation force.

In fact, Hezbollah is causing a fake problem with the UNIFIL that is committed to safeguarding stability in the South and that avoids taking part in any conflict of any type. Yet, Hezbollah wanted to transform the UNIFIL into a point of clash with the international community when the negotiations between the United States and Iran stalled, which had negative repercussions on the maritime borders’ demarcation between Lebanon and Israel.

Challenging resolution 2650 and causing an escalation against the UNIFIL coincided with an attempt by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to omit the referral to resolution 1559 from the request to renew the UNIFIL mandate under resolution 1701. This proves once again that Hezbollah is determined to challenging the resolutions of the international legitimacy which will eventually lead to further isolating Lebanon from the international scene, subordinating the country to Iranian interests, and violating the Constitution that stipulates Lebanon’s commitment to these decisions.

What is more dangerous is that resolution 1701 have represented since 2006 the security safeguard in South Lebanon, and any attempt to infringe it or undermine it is a direct threat to the stability of the South and will push the Lebanese to embark on miscalculated adventures!

Accordingly, Saydet El Jabal Gathering holds Hezbollah fully accountable for any security or military escalation in the South under the justification of amending the UNIFIL mission which duties are exclusively linked to peace keeping.

The Gathering warns Hezbollah and the Lebanese authority against the consequences of overriding resolution 1701 or any international resolution about Lebanon, for it will violate the Lebanese Constitution and undermine the foundations of stability in Lebanon.

The Gathering draws the attention of the Lebanese to the fact that the behavior of Hezbollah against the UNIFIL and against the decisions of the international legitimacy represent the specifications based on which the party wants to elect the new President, a President who would rebel against international resolutions. We strictly condemn this behavior and we warn the opposition against the dangers of refraining from pushing back against Hezbollah’s presidential project. This can only happen through uniting around a Lebanese project for the Presidential elections.

In conclusion, the Gathering stresses that the only occupation in Lebanon is the Iranian occupation through the weapons of Hezbollah, while the UNIFIL was and will remain a peace keeping force, and its history is a witness to that!

**Statement
September 26, 2022**

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting and issued the following statement:

First: Saydet El Jabal Gathering welcomes the third statement issued by the foreign ministers of the United States, France, and Saudi Arabia, and values the continuous support provided by these countries to the sovereignty, the security, and the stability of Lebanon, stressing on the importance of holding the presidential election on its constitutional date.

The gathering pays tribute to the declaration made by these countries about the necessity to elect a President capable of unifying the Lebanese people and who will be committed, along with the Lebanese Government, to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1559, 1701, 1680 and 2650, and the Taef agreement. The gathering goes one step further by declaring that Lebanon is under Iranian occupation through the weaponized Hezbollah party which is impeding the implementation of these resolutions and of the Taef agreement and causing the lack of commitment to constitutional deadlines.

Second: We and all the Lebanese people have heard last Saturday the voice of conscience and patriotism coming from Dar Al Fatwa. Saydet el Jabal gathering praises Mufti Sheikh Abdelatif Derian for his positions that reaffirmed the historical Lebanese constants when he said that the President of the Republic is a symbol and an embodiment of coexistence between the Lebanese, and that the Arabs look up to this position out of the appreciation they have to the Lebanese experience since this President is the only Christian President in the Arab World.

Mufti Derian also stated that the role of the President is to respect the Taef and the Constitution, coexistence, local legislations as well as regional and international treaties. He therefore gave the Presidency a national, Arab, and international dimension that can only be complete with the esteemed role he plays.

Third: Even death shows more mercy towards the Lebanese than their own officials and State. More than 90 persons drowned while trying to escape their difficult lives and this tragedy shall not go unpunished. This is not the first time that such a genocide occurs while the perpetrators are still unprosecuted and undeterred.

Saydet el Jabal Gathering holds Hezbollah accountable for what is happening on the Northern coast because it took long ago the reigns of the Ministry of Public Affairs to control the sea, air, and land outlets. If Hezbollah and the official security authorities are not responsible for what is happening on the Lebanese coast, let them then reveal who the real perpetrators of these horrible crimes are!

Fourth: Iranian women impressed the world with their courage to defy the Iranian regime and to resist. This regime is trying to build a wall that separates Iranian men and women from the rest of the world, nevertheless Iranian women brought down this wall and proved that we live in an era where the call for freedom is stronger than the oppression of authorities.

From a free and resilient Beirut, we send a salute to Iranian women who exposed the regime that declares that it is freeing the people of the region while the reality is that it is severely oppressing its own people!

Statement
September 19, 2022

“Saydet El Jabal Gathering” held its periodic meeting and issued the following statement:

First: Hezbollah is suddenly inspired on the governmental front, and its Secretary General is calling for the formation of a government to avoid constitutional chaos.

Did this topic suddenly become a priority after four months of disruption that killed the remaining hope to avoid the repercussions of a continuous collapse foreshadowing a security and social chaos that all parties in power are responsible of?!

It is yet another proof that the Iranian timing controls constitutional deadlines in Lebanon. When Hezbollah backed by Iran decides to form a government, or elect a President, the mission is accomplished. Hezbollah eats the grapes and fights the battles whenever it wishes.

Second: The Gathering is looking forward, with a lot of hope, to the meeting set to be held in Dar Al Fatwa on September 24, while stressing that there is no Sunni solution to the Sunni crisis, nor a sectarian solution to any community, as the solution for all is one, namely respecting the Constitution, the Taef agreement and the international resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 2650.

Dear Lebanese,

The only national solution for all of us and through all of us, is to confront the Iranian occupation, since partial solutions for this major national crisis will only lead to more complexity and to the deepening of the issues.

Statement
October 3, 2002

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its periodic meeting and issued the following statement:

First: The Lebanese have been following for the past months the updates on the maritime border demarcation deal, be it through media reports or through statements delivered by Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah who said that he was “behind the State” on this matter.

Nevertheless, since the beginning of the negotiations, Nasrallah never stopped acting as someone who comes before or is above the State, while Lebanese politicians were a mere negotiation facade and message carriers, as the true negotiators were Hassan Nasrallah and Yair Lapid.

Due to the current situation, Saydet El Jabal Gathering considers that the draft agreement between Lebanon and Israel shall be submitted for discussion by the Lebanese Parliament. Such an important agreement cannot be “smuggled in” as the main counterpart is the Lebanese people not Hezbollah backed by Iran, the actual political decision maker in Lebanon.

We send out a call to the deputies of the nation for:

- Either discussing the draft agreement in the Parliament
- Or resigning immediately because a Parliament, formed of “special” deputies entitled to be informed about the content of the agreement and other “regular” deputies from whom this information is withheld, cannot be viable

Second: With a demarcation deal signed with Israel, Lebanon will enter a new phase entitled, according to Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri: Stability and Peace in return for Oil. This means that Lebanon is in the process of organizing the dispute with Israel or even more.

Therefore, Saydet El Jabal Gathering stresses that nothing justifies the Hezbollah weapons anymore. How can a party resist against a State while its allies in power are signing a demarcation deal with this State?

The Gathering initially considered that Hezbollah’s weapons lost their legitimacy with the Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon in 2000. It is calling today for the disarmament of Hezbollah by the Lebanese State pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, the Taef Agreement, and the relevant international resolutions, as today these weapons only serve as a lever of Iranian occupation of Lebanon.

If the demarcation deal will guarantee the military and economic stability of Lebanon, wouldn’t it be better to sign a Ceasefire agreement with Israel pursuant to resolution 1701?

Statement
October 17, 2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting and issued the following statement:

Now that both Lebanon and Israel have declared their approval of the US mediated maritime border demarcation, Hezbollah is presenting itself as the guarantor of the implementation of the agreement by force of arms, in the absence of guarantees given by the Lebanese State, as if the latter was a secondary party in charge of the formal arrangements of the agreement.

Saydet El Jabal Gathering refuses the reality of the occupation, and therefore demands the discussion of the agreement in the Parliament that represents the first constitutional corner in the representation of the Lebanese citizens' interests. It is the Parliament's duty to review the agreement and discuss it, otherwise it will lose its *raison d'être*.

The demarcation of the maritime borders with Israel is part of a whole. Considering it sufficient is a flagrant negligence of the State's sovereignty and rights. The Gathering therefore calls for the demarcation of the land borders with Israel, and the maritime and land borders with Syria starting with Chebaa Farms.

In conclusion, Saydet El Jabal Gathering stresses on the need to elect a new President and form a new Government as per the Constitution and the Taef agreement, as this is the only guarantee for the implementation of the agreement so that it becomes a national achievement rather than the achievement of a specific party or a sectarian community.

Dear Lebanese citizens,

Hezbollah is destroying democratic life by refusing the presidential elections through failing to accept candidates and talking about "agreement".

Is there an agreement on Hezbollah weapons? Is there an agreement on the wars of Hezbollah outside Lebanon? Is there an agreement on Iran providing Hezbollah with rockets and weapons? Hezbollah is an occupation force and we call on parliamentary blocs to confront it.

Statement
October 24, 2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting online with the participation of Antoine Kassis, Ahmed Fatfat, Elie Koseifi, Elie Kirillos, Elie El Hagge, Amine Mohammad Bachir, Edmond Rabbat, Ralph Germanos, Rouba Kabbara, Rodrigue Naufal, Sami Chamoun, Sanaa Eljack, Saad Kiwan, Serge Bou Gharios, Suzie Ziade, Tony Habib, Tony Khawaja, Toubia Atallah, Atallah Wehbe, Abjed El Rahman Bchinati, Ghassan Moghabghab, Fares Soueid, Fady Antoine Karam, Fairouz Joudieh, Fathi El Yafi, Lina Tannir, Majed Karam, Maamoun Malak, Mayyad Haidar, Norma Rizk, Nelly Kandil, and Nabil Yazbeck, and issued the following statement:

Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri, as per Hezbollah's instructions, started promoting the idea of an open dialogue between parliamentary blocs and political parties' leaders "to ensure the biggest parliamentary support to a consensual presidential candidate", for Hezbollah to impose the most suitable candidate for this period.

First, it is strange for parliamentary blocs to have a dialogue for the election of a new President instead of simply electing a President within the deadlines and as per the constitutional procedures.

What is the use of such a dialogue when it is possible to elect a President should the deputies convene and guarantee a quorum? They make it seem as if the problem is the absence of a constitutional mechanism to elect a President while the real issue is the voluntary disruption of this mechanism through the disruption of the sessions and the intended lack of quorum.

Secondly, calling the parliament to this dialogue is in itself a disruption of the work of constitutional institutions, so how can such a dialogue be justified by the need to ensure a smooth functioning of constitutional institutions as Berri claims? Unless Berri is calling for a dialogue in his capacity as a head of the development and liberation bloc and is therefore trying to ensure a political consensus for the election of a President. Yet, a parliamentary dialogue to agree on a candidate outside the Parliament followed by the election of this candidate in the Parliament paralyzes the role the Parliament and shakes the democratic foundations of the Lebanese system. It would have been better for President Berri to exert some pressure on the deputies of his bloc and those of his allies urging them to stop causing a lack of quorum!

Thirdly, the Lebanese democracy is once again under attack within its own backyard, the Parliament: what is the use of holding parliamentary elections if the Parliament is not fulfilling its constitutional duty and if its President is turning it into a tribal council or into a Loya Jirga the Afghan way?!

Statement
October 31st, 2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting online and issued the following statement:

Lebanon is at the gates of a constitutional chaos that was already announced by the former President who pledged to protect the constitution, yet left the Presidential palace the same way he entered it, as the leader of a political party that he serves at the expense of the Constitution and sound public institutions, which makes the country step into the unknown.

First: Amidst this exceptional and dangerous situation, Saydet El Jabal Gathering calls the deputies of the nation to convene immediately for the election of a new President pursuant to article 74 of the constitution that stipulates: "should the presidency become vacant through the death or resignation of the President or any other cause, the Chamber meets immediately and by virtue of the law to elect a successor."

The deputies of the nation solely bear the responsibility of any minute of presidential vacancy if they refrain from electing a new President immediately.

Therefore, parliamentarians, especially sovereign parliamentarians, are constitutionally, nationally, and ethically required to use all means of political, media and popular pressure to make the election of a President a number one priority. No mission shall currently be carried out by the Parliament other than the mission of electing a new President, while convening to read presidential letters or undertake other missions will be a clear breach of constitutional obligations.

The deputies shall either fulfill their national and constitutional obligation to put an end to presidential vacancy or be held accountable for breaking the promises they made to their constituents and for consecrating the exceptional situation that Hezbollah and its allies are trying to establish by disrupting presidential elections, as if this was an inevitable fait accompli.

Secondly: the Gathering renews its refusal of a forced consensus under the title of “dialogue outside constitutional institutions” for the election of a President, as the constitutional mechanisms for presidential elections are clear and do not need any interpretation or explanation. For this reason, the parliament is obliged to immediately elect a new President instead of losing time in dialogues that are only meant to cover violations committed by Hezbollah and its allies who are disrupting presidential elections and endangering Lebanon’s security and territorial integrity.

Therefore, the Gathering stresses on the eleven items points included in the closing statement of the Conference for Lifting the Iranian Occupation of Lebanon, as they represent the only path capable of restituting Lebanon’s historical, sovereign, and democratic role. The first step to be taken in this direction is the election of a President who carries a national project promoting internal unity and foreign relations, not an Iranian project that isolates Lebanon and consecrates the victory of Hezbollah internally.

Statement November 7, 2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its weekly meeting online and issued the following statement:

First: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the support of the UN special coordinator for Lebanon, declared the need to preserve the Taef Agreement described as the most suitable organizational framework for inter-Lebanese relations, and the pathway to exit the current crisis. Saydet El Jabal Gathering condemns all the statements made by Lebanese leaders during the UNESCO conference, as they avoided to justify the non-implementation of the Taef Agreement during the last 33 years, which was actually due to the previous Syrian occupation and to the current Iranian occupation, and merely cited secondary reasons that do not reflect the current situation.

Secondly: Hezbollah's media outlets are trying to bring the Christian political crisis into view, warning against the return to violence within the Christian community.

The Gathering is keen on clarifying the following:

1- The current crisis is not limited to one of the Lebanese sectarian communities, as all the Lebanese are suffering from a severe national crisis.

2- Christians are witnessing an internal struggle over political power, Shiites became a tool to consolidate Iran's influence, and Sunnis are searching for ways to come back to the political life... While Lebanon is struggling under an Iranian occupation that paralyzed all powers within the Lebanese society, be it sectarian or civil powers, and drained the capacity of the Lebanese to create any form of resistance.

Therefore, Saydet El Jabal Gathering calls the Maronite Church to lead the anti-Iranian occupation movement through the enforcement of the Constitution, reference legislations, the National Pact and the international community's resolutions 1559-1680-1701 and 2650. The Church is called to gather the Lebanese around the need to build a sovereign, free and independent State. The role of the Church and of all spiritual authorities is essential in filling the current political vacuum.

Statement
December 5, 2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its periodic meeting online and issued the following statement:

First: Lebanon is witnessing a new cycle of fictional conflict between sectarian leaders, which is affecting sectarians communities, due to conflicting views on the session of the caretaker government. The political powers that did not deliver the promises they made to the Lebanese during parliamentary elections, are inventing a new sectarian conflict to compensate their failures. Let us not forget that the government of former Prime Minister Hassan Diab did not convene for 15 months because all previous Prime Ministers considered that the session would be unconstitutional. While today, Christian parties, especially the Free Patriotic Movement, consider that it is unconstitutional for the government of President Najib Mikati to convene; so who should we believe?

We shall believe no one as the true conflict is elsewhere, namely in refraining from electing a new President of the Republic after more than a month since the mandate of President Michel Aoun came to an end.

The worst is that Christian powers that are against the participation to this session are on the other hand paralyzing the presidential election sessions. As for the remaining Christian parties, they declare they are opposed to this disruption, only for the sake of form, without taking the necessary parliamentary or political steps to find a solution or at least to hold the responsible accountable before the Lebanese, from a political and an ethical perspective. Paralyzing the election of a President is premeditated by Hezbollah and its allies, the objective being clear: no President for the Lebanese Republic, even if we have to wait ten years, unless this President submits, as his predecessor, to the Iranian agenda in Lebanon and the region. The Iranian agenda means in practice a political, foreign and military dependency on Iran, and allowing the weaponization of Hezbollah in pursuit of all its military adventures in Lebanon, the region and the world.

Secondly: Saydet El Jabal Gathering expresses its sympathy with the heroic Iranian people fighting the battle of freedom in Iran.

The lesson one should learn from Beirut and Teheran revolutionaries is that this is the only path to stop the oppression of the people.

Statement
December 12 ,2022

Saydet El Jabal Gathering held its periodic meeting in person and online and issued the following statement:

First: High security risks come back to haunt Lebanon and the Lebanese population due to Iranian attempts to smuggle weapons through Rafiq Hariri International Airport and subsequent Israeli threats to thwart these activities by targeting the airport. This puts Lebanon once again amid regional conflicts and turns the country into an open field for regional bargaining and foreign interferences, while the Lebanese can barely keep up with their own problems and are in dire need for security and safety.

The Gathering would like to remind the relevant stakeholders that Netanyahu, in charge of forming a new government in Israel, has warned from the tribunes of the United Nations in September 2018 against Hezbollah's arms depots near Beirut's international airport. Netanyahu also warned against other depots in the Jnah area in the heart of Beirut after the Port explosion in August 2020, and all the destruction it caused before the eyes of the whole world. Therefore, Saydet El Jabal Gathering calls on the sovereign political forces, the MPs, and the government to protect Beirut, its international airport, and the surrounding area, through the implementation of resolutions 1559 and 1701.

This topic is highly urgent and sensitive, and such threat cannot be postponed despite the insufficient guarantees given by the State considering the facts on the ground that no one ignores.

Secondly: The Maronite Patriarchate has always been a religious and national destination at crucial historical moments; however, political forces visit these premises to meet their demands or to cover their actions, while the Maronite Patriarchate always does what its historical and national conscience dictates.

We therefore hope that it will close its doors to deputies and political forces who have failed to elect a President of the Republic and to reopen them only when those forces fulfill their duties by electing a new President.

National priority shall now be given to the election of a President of the Republic instead of public and bilateral dialogues, and the path towards this goal is defined by the Constitution.

Thirdly: Lebanese citizens are outraged by what happened in Achrafieh which is considered unacceptable and raises many questions that shall be answered by security services like the Lebanese Army's intelligence, the Information Unit of the ISF, the General Security and the State Security forces. These parties are required, as dictated by their duty and by law, to disclose the identity of the aggressors and instigators and to hold them accountable in accordance with the law. Why didn't the security services prevent the arrival of these young men to Sassine Square in Achrafieh? The silence of Beirut's deputies is also surprising.

The main issue to be tackled is the State's repeated failure to deter such attacks and events before they occur. The only guarantee is the forces of legitimacy, and when those forces are absent, the Lebanese will tend to search for alternative guarantees.

Yet, our Charter remains the oath of Gebran Tueni, murdered on 12-12-2005 for the sake of Lebanon, "to be forever united".