



لقاء سيدة الجبل
علم وخبر رقم 143

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."