

لقاء سيدة الجبل
علم وخبر رقم 143

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:

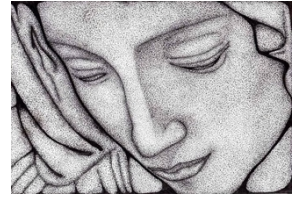
The presidential elections will be held at an extremely complicated juncture internally, regionally, and internationally with the renewal of the cold war between the West against Russia and China.

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



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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