



لقاء سيدة الجبل
علم وخبر رقم 143

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?!