



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 27 2016

Aoun-Geagea axis not building a federation, it is doing "coup" inside the Christian areas...

By Tom Harb, DC

More articles are posted to give the impression to the Christian public opinion in Lebanon that Dr Geagea and General Aoun are secretly working on unifying their forces to create a Christian canton and impose a federation in Lebanon. Ya reit. They could have done it in 48 hours in 1988. They had a huge area in 1990. They could have avoided a terrible war among the Lebanese Christians destroying all what could have helped in establishing a federated entity, 25 years ago! Many thousands would have lived. Hundreds of thousands would have stayed in Lebanon. Now that their candidacies for the Presidency have almost evaporated. Now their supporters are trying to convince the Christian people of Lebanon that the leaders are working hard on creating a "Christian Lebanon" but we need to be secret about it. None of this is true. All what they are trying to do is to create an axis to dominate the Christian areas like Hezbollah and Amal dominate the Shia areas. They want to control every Christian seat in Parliament at the next election and every municipality as the Muslim Brotherhood have done in Egypt in 2012. They want every job in Government slated to the Christians so that they become the only ruling party among Christians. But will they be using all that power to create a federation? Not at all. They want to control the Christians of Lebanon under the ceiling of a deal with Hezbollah and Iran. Call it a "coup" inside the Christian areas and a deal with the big bosses in Tehran. A nice little Gaza not a free Lebanon...

Tom Harb is the Secretary General of the World Council for the Cedars Revolution (WCCR) and the Chairman of the Committee for the Implementation of UNSC 1559.



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January 27 2016

The 1960 Law is no Federation...

By Tom Harb , DC

Make no mistake the so-called 1960 law which would allow members of a community to elect their representatives, will actually give the control of the representation of the community to those who have most money, including regional donations and create a dominant power inside each community while Lebanon as a whole is controlled by Iran and Hezbollah. If the Christians of Lebanon or any other community wants a real representation and a democratic one, they should establish a real federal system with local Governments and assemblies. The 1960 Law is not a federation. It is a mafia style control of each community by warlords and zaims who in turn would divide the authorities of the Government among themselves. The Lebanese Christians and other communities should call for a clear and transparent federal system not a zaims-systems.



January 26 2016

"Me3rab deal" is not following the Kurdish example in Lebanon, it left it 25 years ago

By Tom Harb , DC

An article published in al Jumhuriya by Toni Issa, tried to argue that perhaps the "Me3rab deal" between Dr Geagea and General Michel Aoun will create conditions similar to the situation of the Kurds in northern Iraq and north East Syria and possibly move the Christian community of Lebanon towards autonomy if not separation. The author claims that just by coming together Geagea and Aoun have "unified the Christians" and put them on a track leading to a "Christian region or Christian bloc."

The article is designed in our view to alleviate the mounting pressure by the Lebanese Christian public against the "deal" and the silent frustration among the supporters of Dr Geagea and General Aoun for the destruction caused by the 1990 war and for the people who were killed for no reason. Alluding that the Geagea Aoun axis is going to create a "dream situation" for the Christians is not reality. Because reality is just the opposite of this picture. Reality is a nightmare that started in 1990 and is now going worse.

Both Geagea and Aoun had a historic opportunity in 1989 to create a free republic in Lebanon until full liberation of the country. East Beirut and large free areas, one million inhabitants, a combined force of 25,000 military, an airport, enough weapons to deter Assad and the pro Iranian militias. They had everything to do what the Kurds have achieved in the last 25 years. The Kurds had nothing except free towns in northern Iraq in 1990. Geagea and Aoun had everything the Kurds would dream of. But what did the two Lebanese Christian leaders do? They destroyed East Beirut and the free areas, they broke the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army, they invited the Syrian army and Hezbollah in. And worse they sold the weapons!

With Taef, Dr Geagea surrendered the federal system to an Arabist republic in 1991 and with the "Tafahom" General Aoun opened the Christian areas to Hezbollah in 2005. But they were both put out of action for 15 years in spite of all the surrenders they did.

Now 25 years later, they are not going anywhere close to autonomy. One is the ally of Hezbollah and the other wants to join him. They may change their minds? Maybe they would, and if they do the people may forgive them. But for now they are not. They are creating a dominant political force in the Christian areas to seize as much power for both leaders and obtain as much seats and influence in a central Government controlled by Hezbollah. That's all folks.

If they change direction against Hezbollah we cannot but support that opposition. But if they won't we cannot but oppose them

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January 26 2016

He knows what he is doing?...not really

These days social media chats and threads about the "Me3rab deal" are filled with one statement: "Our leader knows what he is doing" (houe bya3ref shou 3am ya3me3l)

Our answer is simple. No one follows blindly. We want to know what he is doing we don't want to just say he knows what he is doing. Because in 1989 you said "he knows what he is doing" he got us Taef. In 1990 you said he knows what he is doing. He got us a civil war and the destruction of East Beirut. In 2005 you said he knows what he is doing. He got us Hezbollah victory and Doha. Now you come back and say "he knows what he is doing". We don't think he is doing right and we don't accept the answer "houe bya3ref shou 3am ya3me3l"

We want to know what he is doing because from what we are seeing, he doesn't know what he is doing..



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 25 2016

Correcting historical facts about Hezbollah's invasion of Beirut in 2007

Al Marsad online published a piece on so-called events never mentioned before relating to the Hezbollah attack against West Beirut on May 7, 2008. The publication alleged that Dr Samir Geagea the leader of the Lebanese Forces Party contacted Mr Saad el Hariri and proposed to shut down the streets between West Beirut and East Beirut to back up Hariri and proposed to send bands of armed gunmen to fight to fight Hezbollah militiamen inside the capital. The report alleged that Hariri refused the Geagea offer and asked him to accompany him to Doha. Our information dating from May 2008 confirms that such proposal was never made by Dr Geagea to Hariri.

First there was an impossibility at the time to send within 48 hours, groups of trained armed elements by Geagea to Hariri. He doesn't have a standing paramilitary force able to mobilize in 48 hours and engage in fights with Hezbollah outside some few Christian neighborhoods. Second, the Lebanese Army had deployed a number of brigades around West Beirut for days.

In addition, we know that Mr Walid Jumblat was frustrated that Dr Geagea didn't mobilize politically and on the ground to assist the Druze in the mountain as they were resisting Hezbollah fighters.

More important Cedars Revolution leaders overseas had urged Dr Geagea when Hezbollah invaded to mobilize demonstrations in support of the Government and against Hezbollah. According to these leaders Geagea refused to organize demonstrations and any civil protest against Hezbollah in May 2008. His only response was to go to Doha.



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 24 2016

Not one day

Many partisans are urging the frustrated public among the Lebanese Christians to give some more time to the Geagea-Aoun deal. To give it few months. And we are saying: not one day. This deal as it is must be opposed with no time given to Hezbollah to play its games. Pressures should be on Geagea and Aoun to cut ties with Hezbollah and create a free area in Lebanon. No time to other disaster experiences with Hezbollah.



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 23 2016

Depressed or propaganda?

Many accounts on social media are disseminating that "they have enough of divisions and debates," that they are "depressed and don't want to hear anything about the Aoun Geagea deal," while others are saying "we reached the unity, no need to talk anymore." If you add all these accounts and read the amount of the energetic debates they had before last week, you'd wonder what happened to the debaters and flame throwers, particularly among Lebanese Christians. So over night close to 200 accounts decided that they are having a depression and they are calling for a closing of all debates, shaming anyone who discuss the Me3rab declaration.

Well, after investigation via social media, it appears that the accounts exploding in emotional depressions and calling for a shut down of the debate are "very much organized" and are in fact a propaganda arm that wants to stop the debate, stop the healthy criticism and move fast and away from one of the most important discussions of the past 25 years: about the future of the Lebanese Christians and of Lebanon, the future relations with Hezbollah and how we got where we are now. Obviously since there are very few arguments in favor of the "Me3rab deal" the best strategy for the bosses of that deal is to shut down the debate, simply!

Well pals, this is not going to happen, not now and not tomorrow. We are after the Cedars Revolution and no one shuts the debate, whatever and whoever are the bosses who have interest in eliminating discussions and expressing views. If you are in politics then you deal with the consequences of politics. We do not throw a ten points program on the public and ask them to shut down the discussion. We are after the Arab spring and in the age of freedom.



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 23 2016

The real threat of the "Me3rab deal"

Observers and analysts are now focusing on the real threat produced by the the alliance between Dr Geagea and General Aoun. It is not the electoral alliance, presidential or parliamentary. It is the penetration by Hezbollah of the Aounist movement which could reach the party of Dr Geagea. And this could cause a major problem for Lebanon's national security



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 21 2016

1990 civil war

If Dr Geagea and General Aoun shook hands in 2005 and again in 2016, this does not erase their responsibility in the civil war of 1990 that destroyed the Christian free areas of East Beirut, and caused the Syrian invasion. They could state for ever that they put this behind them, the Christian people won't put this disaster behind before justice is made and lessons are learned. It is not just about the people who were killed it is about causing a collapse of the Christian people for 25 years. That won't be forgotten and that will be addressed, now and in the future. No one escapes history with a hand shake.



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 20 2016

Response to Sitt Michelle Tueni: "No Mabrouk for Disasters"

By Tom Harb

Our love and admiration for Gebran will never end. And our affection for his family is always there. However this is a note to his daughter the public policy figure Michelle Tueni. Your article in al Nahar is filled with good intentions and we would have probably, Gebran and us, written the same thing. But sitt Michele the arguments used are good for a Lebanon before 1975

in that other Lebanon where politicians maneuver on each other, stab each other in the back, take revenge on each other and often appear as the shrewdest foxes in the country. That was during the times of Beshara el Khoury, Saeb Salam, Camille Chamoun, Kamal Jumblat, Sleiman Frangieh the first, Pierre Gemayel, Majid Erslan, Sabri Hmade, and all that chorus of Levantine politicians. The effects of their moves were barely scratching the lives of daily Lebanese. Now sitt Michele, and at least since 1989, every move by any 'war lord' then and political lord since, have profound impact on the country, the people and on the lives of people, public and individuals, and it had an impact on the life of your beloved father, our dear friend Gebran.

"Mabruk la Samir Geagea" because he shook the hand of Michel Aoun? Yes absolutely. They shook hands in 1988, 1989, 2005 and more. Yet the Lebanese Christians were pushed from disaster to disaster non stop. They reconcile, that's their problem and their choice, which they should have never gone to war among each other in 1990. But to state that the endorsement by Geagea of an ally of Hezbollah is some sort of geniusly move? Far from that Madame. People aren't naive. Their handshake won't do anything of the things that the Christian people and all other communities are waiting for. "Geagea is outmaneuvering Hezbollah.?" Not at all, in our view Hezbollah has outmaneuvered Geagea by dragging him to support Aoun. The latter is still an ally of Iran and Assad. It is Geagea who changed position not Aoun. Gradually you will see the effects of such folly. Geagea will accompany Aoun into the space of Hezbollah and Iran while claiming he is outmaneuvering Hezbollah and Iran, and why not Putin?

We have nothing against Dr Geagea. In fact we're the ones who triggered the process for him to be free from jail, thanks to our work on UNSCR 1559. We relied on the assumption that he learned from the 1980s and the 1990s. It doesn't look like he did. The Lebanon that Gebran died for, is now very close from a major collapse. And there shouldn't be a Mabrouk for that.



[Thawrat Al Arz](#)

January 19 2016

We had a free Lebanon..and they destroyed it

Leaders can reconcile at will. That is their issue. But leaders who destroyed the free areas of East Beirut in 1990, lost thousands of young men in the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army, ravaged everything between Sodeco and Madfoun, allowing the Syrians to invade and occupy for 15 years and Hezbollah to terrorise for another 10 years, cannot claim they represent the Christians in a new reckless partnership with Hezbollah. The Christian people of Lebanon should have them explain what they did in 1990 and for the past 25 years. They destroyed a quarter of century of Lebanon's history. Then as simple as that, they are asking for a unity to elect a President? We had presidents since 1990, what did they do? Before they walk towards a new catastrophe they need to address the Christian people in public and explain what happened in the last 25 years. The Lebanese Christians are not a bunch of sheep taken from one valley to another just to follow failed sheperds. And if the two co-leaders won't explain, someone else will. The Christians of Lebanon have changed. No more sheep no more zelm without brains...



January 19 2016

A narrative that doesn't cut anymore...

By Tom Harb

Over the years every time Lebanese Christian politicians or leaders wanted to cut a bad deal, start a retreat, or do something bad for the nation but good for their own advancement, they would start using an empty rhetoric and emotional narrative. In 1985 Elias Hobeika told the Christians he is going to Damascus to defend their rights. Samir Geagea removed him in 1986 stating that Hobeika was selling out. In 1989, Dr Geagea signed on the Taef agreement saying this was good for the Lebanese Christians. General Aoun opposed Taef because it gave power to Assad and Hezbollah. Aoun was removed by the Syrians and Geagea and the last said he knew what he was doing was for the sake of the Christians. In 2005 Lebanese Christian politicians allied with Hezbollah because this was as they said, good for the Christians. In 2006 Aoun signed an agreement with Hezbollah saying this was in the interest of the Christians. In 2008, all these politicians went to Doha and said this was in the interest of the Christians. Now Geagea is saying voting for Aoun is in the interest of the Christians.

In past years this narrative used to work with simple good hearted citizens in Lebanon and the Diaspora. Not anymore today. The spokesmen and bloggers of the Lebanese Christians politicians are trying to impress the public by declaring that Geagea knows international politics very well and he is acting with intelligence. What the public knows now, thanks to social media is that Geagea or Aoun do not understand international politics but try to position themselves, not their community, where they can survive and thrive, not their community to take advantage of the region's changes. Now they are moving to hide under the umbrella of the Iran deal, a generous umbrella which they will stay under until they find out the next stage.

But people know more than ever before. The Aoun candidacy is not a unifying factor for the Lebanese Christians. And partnering with Hezbollah is contrary to the interest of the Lebanese Christians. Aoun and Geagea can maybe convince their own partisans, but not the majority of Lebanese. Some politicians who are rushing to obtain slices from the big cake, are parroting the same arguments to calm the public. It is not working and it won't work anymore. The Aoun Geagea partnership with Hezbollah cannot be hidden under words such as: we know better, trust us, let's act in the interest of the nation. We heard these words before and 25 years later, it led to disasters. We won't allow a new disaster without exposing it. It won't be an easy promenade for anyone who wants to fool the public anymore.



January 18 2016

"Strategic mind?"

Bloggers close to Dr Geagea are describing him as a "strategic mind." Strategic in what? There is no brightness in a retreat. Endorsing an ally of Hezbollah is not a "strategic move." This is another reckless move based on political calculations not on the national interest of the Christian people of Lebanon. Back in 1989, Dr Geagea moved to Taef, and cost the Lebanese Christian resistance 15 years of sacrifices. Now he is endorsing a politician who has signed a strategic alliance with Hezbollah. Where is the smart move here? Smart to save his own spot in the next Government, yes. But this move will lead to a free Lebanon, or a free area in Lebanon? Far from that. Dr Geagea is repeating one more time what he has done in Taef, and what Elie Hobeika did in 1985 with the "Tripartite agreement." The events will show very soon.



January 18 2016

Geagea and Aoun: The Hezbollah's Petains

By:Tom Harb

After being responsible for a devastating civil war among Christians in 1990, which they have never faced responsibility for, and which has led to 15 years of Syrian occupation and 10 years of Hezbollah terror. After having blocked any liberation of Lebanon by the Cedars Revolution, after having entered in coalition with Hezbollah in 2005, 2006 and having endorsed Hezbollah's invasion in 2008. After having been sitting on the necks of the Lebanese Christians for 30 years, wasting time with their endless disputes, calculating their political gains over the people's national interest, Samir Geagea and Michel Aoun finally ended up where they should have been from the beginning: together, in failures and mediocrity.

They have united the Christians? Absolutely not. They have united their own political interests. They have contained Hezbollah? Absolutely not, they have been contained like sheep by Hezbollah and Iran. Aoun is in Iran's pocket, and Geagea is now in support of Aoun, entering Iran's other pocket.

Hezbollah won the game. If the choice is between Frangieh and Aoun, what kind of a choice is that? Between the ally of Nasrallah and the ally of Assad?

Aoun's partisans are delighted to have Geagea support their boss, who is Nasrallah's man. Geagea's men are running around telling the Christians, our boss is intelligent, he knows what he is doing. That's the best way to get out of it. Out of what? Out of the pit that both Geagea and Aoun have thrown the Christians in since 1990 and again after 2005. This is no intelligence, this is cold calculations on behalf of politicians to secure political office and political survival.

The difference with the 1990s and the 1980s, Dr Geagea and General Aoun, and today, is that people aren't dumb, aren't uninformed and have ways to communicate and expose political opportunism and corruption. You have betrayed the trust of the Christian people in you. For your

past battles against the Syrians are now erased from your credit. Like Petain, a hero of France during WWI and a collaborator with the Nazis during WWII, you have become the Petains of 2016. Aoun at the Presidency? Good luck. Geagea winning seats at the cabinet and being received by Rouhani in Tehran. Good luck. You can go far after becoming Hezbollah's Petains. But one place you aren't going back to: The hearts of a majority of Lebanese and of the Christian people of Lebanon. And you will see it by yourselves, soon.