

Sfeir: Hizbullah Serves Iran's Interest over Lebanon's

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Patriarch of Lebanon's Maronite Church lashes out at Hizbullah

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Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir said that there is "someone in the interior who is leaning on exterior force to attain parliamentary and ministerial gains". In that context, Sfeir considered that Hizbullah is serving Iran's interest more than serving Lebanon's one.

In an interview with Al-Massira weekly, Sfeir said that March 14 should have taken command of the rule in Lebanon after the June 7 parliamentary elections. The Maronite Patriarch announced that arms and democracy do not match, in the same manner that parliamentary majority and minority cannot be combined in one government.

While Sfeir stressed that foreign interventions were standing in the way of forming the anticipated government, he also added that Syria cannot be solely held responsible in terms of those interventions.

The Maronite Patriarch said that weaponry should be in the hands of the Lebanese Army only, warning from reaching a stage that pushes everyone to arm.

Sfeir stressed that there are some parties in Lebanon who wish welfare for other countries instead of wishing it for their own country.

Answering a question, Sfeir said that he will not ask PSP leader MP Walid Jumblat to change his current localization nor ask him to adhere to it.

On the other hand, Sfeir ridiculed the atmospheres spreading news about the existence of a severance of relations with Pope Benedict XVI.

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"Weapons and democracy cannot coexist," said Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, patriarch of Lebanon's Maronite Church, in an interview to Lebanon's al-Massira magazine to be published on Saturday.

During the interview, conducted on Thursday, Sfeir lashed out at Hizbullah, maintaining that the Shi'ite organization threatened Lebanon's security and stability.

"Someone on the inside is leaning on exterior force to attain parliamentary and ministerial gains," the patriarch was quoted as saying, suggesting that Hizbullah was undermining Lebanon's efforts to establish a national unity government.

By carrying out the wishes of foreign parties, using illegal arms and terrorizing the state and its people, he said, Hizbullah was effectively jeopardizing Lebanon's already-shaky sovereignty under the guise of legitimate political activity.

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