Phares: A €œneutral€• President would sink the international court

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1. If a President is elected outside the March 14 movement, and unwilling to implement the Cedars revolution goals, including the relevant UNSC resolutions, this would move Lebanon from being supported by the US, Europe and the international community back to the Syrian and Iranian influence.

2. A Pro Syrian President along with the Speaker of the House can form a new cabinet, also pro-Syrian.

3. The Tribunal being a mix court, with international and Lebanese arms can be paralyzed by freezing the Lebanese court system on procedural grounds. This would not cancel the UN resolution, but stop the process on procedural grounds. The UN won't be able to move forward if two, if not three of the branches of Government in Lebanon are under Syrian control.

4. A new pro Syrian President can, along with the Speaker and a "unity Government" works on early legislative elections, which would bring a new favorable assembly. The latter, most likely under the new influence of the President and the other powers, would vote for amnesty laws covering all crimes since 2005 as an act of "national reconciliation." These laws can obstruct the international mix tribunal and crumble it.

5. If crimes committed during 15 years of war were erased by an amnesty law, crimes committed since 2005 can be also put under this category.

6. Obviously, one can still go in front of other tribunals, in other countries, but the UN resolution won't apply.

In conclusion, the only path for the International Tribunal to try the criminals is to help the process by electing a new President who would commit to implement the UN resolutions including UNSCR 1595 and 1757. The President has to be committed to all UN resolutions and cannot nor should he be in between the resolutions and the criminals.

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