



THE COUNCIL OF LEBANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

Founded in 1989 to serve the USA and Lebanon

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Let There Be A Government Of Unity In Lebanon

The Council of Lebanese American Organizations (CLAO) is anxiously following the events in Lebanon with the escalating popular protest. In the last few days nearly a million and a half, exceeding a third of the Lebanese population, took to the streets of Beirut in peaceful protest of the abusive practices of power by the government of Mr Fouad Siniora. With questionable representation since inception, the recent resignation of six ministers from the current government, represents the final blow to any semblance of representation of the will of the Lebanese People: Over 70% of the Lebanese Christians, over 90% of the Lebanese Shiites, and a large portion of the Lebanese Sunnis and Druze are now unrepresented in this cabinet, based on popular vote figures from the last Parliamentary Elections.

Since coming to power, the government of Mr Fouad Siniora has committed numerous and serious constitutional infractions in interfering with the Judicial and Legislative branches, failed to deliver on any item of the political program promised by his Cabinet, most notably a new Electoral Law to replace the Syrian Occupation imposed version of 2000 along with much needed economic reform to address the mounting national debt of over \$40 Billions.

The protests have started on Friday December 1, 2006 and still going strong, vowing no end until the resignation of the current Siniora Government and the formation of a National Unity Government that is truly representative of the Will of the Lebanese. Mr. Siniora and the remnants of his Cabinet remain adamant at defying the Will of the people drawing his true backing ironically from the expedient foreign policy of the greatest democracy in the world, our beloved United States.

While CLAO praises President Bush for his genuine efforts in support of a free, sovereign, and democratic Lebanon, CLAO calls on the Bush administration to reevaluate its policy towards the Siniora government. Such government is none less than a byproduct of Syrian Occupation by virtue of the 2000 Electoral Law that was forced on the Lebanese against their will in the 2005 elections. Often referred to as the "Ghazi Kanaan Law", in reference to the late Syrian Minister of Interior, the 2000 Electoral Law was designed to marginalize the Lebanese Christians, for instance, by diluting the contribution of their popular vote to actual numbers of MP's. A fair and truly representative Electoral Law is the foundation of any democratic form of government: anything short is an aberration and not true democracy.

CLAO urges the US administration to support the formation of a National Unity Government to replace the current Cabinet of Mr Fouad Siniora and lead the country through a period of transition to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Pass the proposed Electoral Law
2. Call for early Parliamentary Elections
3. Elect a New President of the Republic

These steps will ensure the establishment of a cohesive central authority armed with the trust and overwhelming support of the broadest Lebanese popular base. Only such an authority would be capable of disarming Hezbollah and the Palestinian militias and undertake the enormous political and economic reform challenges facing the Lebanese Nation.

Go Freedom Seeking Lebanese – True Democracy is near

SCALA – Southern California Association of Lebanese Americans – CA
LACLV – Lebanese American Committee of Las Vegas – NV
LACSF – Lebanese American Club of San Francisco – CA
ALCNJ – American Lebanese Club of New Jersey – NJ
VLAC – Vermont Leb. American Committee – VT
Texans for Lebanon – TX
CLAO Students – USA

LACNC – Lebanese American Council of North Carolina – NC
ALI – American Lebanese Institute – Washington, D.C.
LID – Liberty Independence Dignity for Lebanon – NY
ALOHA – American Lebanese Ohio Association – OH
ALC – American Lebanese of the Carolinas – NC
AFL – Americans for Free Lebanese – CT
BTL – Bridge to Lebanon – USA

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