



THE COUNCIL OF LEBANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

CLAO Founded in 1989 to serve the USA and Lebanon.

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Great People Of Lebanon: Justice Will Prevail Liberation Is Near

Under the rain, over a quarter million of freedom seeking Lebanese reached the Martyr Square in downtown Beirut today, able to penetrate numerous Lebanese army checkpoints, armed with red roses, olive branches, and Lebanese flags. The Lebanese army, who was given strict orders to disallow the people the right to protest, denied them access at first but couldn't resist the quest for freedom. With smiles of support, soldiers defied the Syrian-installed Lebanese regime orders and facilitated the formation of the largest gathering in Lebanon's history.

It is with an immeasurable gratification and appreciation that the Council of Lebanese American Organizations (CLAO) and all its members are witnessing the unfolding emancipation of the Lebanese people today in downtown Beirut. Defying restrictions by the Syrian-puppet regime and overcoming their fears after decades of oppression. "SYRIA OUT – SYRIA OUT – SYRIA OUT" ... "SOVEREIGNTY" ... "FREEDOM" ... "INDEPENDENCE" ... Slogans like these and many others filled the air throughout Lebanon. It was in unison, with one voice, one heart, one mind, and one agenda that the people of Lebanon came together in support of the Independence Uprising. The protesters of all religions, political affiliations, and beliefs gathered in time for the session of parliament, where the opposition members demanded the resignation of the Cabinet, the regime, and the withdrawal of the Syrian troops and intelligence. Many parliament members spoke about their personal experiences with Syrian intelligence threats. MP Marwan Hamadi, who faced an assassination attempt in October 2004, spoke without fear about the murderous role of the Syrian Mukabarat and gave first hand information witnessing the Syrian political, social, economical, and intelligence dominance in Lebanon.

CLAO congratulates all the Lebanese patriots in their commitment to the Lebanese Nation. CLAO resolutely pledge to settle for nothing less than a free and democratic motherland. Furthermore, CLAO salutes the Lebanese armed forces and believes that the Syrian puppet Lebanese government's orders to confront and attack the peaceful Lebanese demonstrators will bear severe consequences on both regimes in Lebanon and Syria

CLAO cautions the Lebanese patriots not to succumb to any partial solution or a temporary fix. The time is now for a full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559. All else will fall short. Only the complete withdrawal of all Syrian forces and their intelligence operatives, the formation of an interim government, and free and fair elections are acceptable. Anything less will prolong the ruthless occupation and suffering of the people.

CLAO believes that the show of unity that the Lebanese have demonstrated in recent weeks present an unquestionable proof that the pretext of maintaining order used by the Syrian occupier is false. Through this unity, the Lebanese will regain their Nation; through solidarity, freedom is imminent.

Go Freedom Seeking Lebanese – Liberation is near

SCALA - Southern Calif. Assn. 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
CLAO Students *** - USA**
Texans for Lebanon *** - TX**

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

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