

## Justice for the victims, vengeance against the regime \*

We were all born on August 4, 2020, at 6pm, in the port of Beirut, warehouse number 12. We were born, or rather, we all died and some of us came back to life, corpses made of broken glass, concrete pieces and ammonium nitrate deposits. There was nothing left for us but to measure the magnitude of the disaster that befell on our city. This did not happen as a result of a natural disaster; nor is it the result of an accident or a welding error; it is not just the result of the widespread state of corruption that has governed us for more than 30 years.

This explosion is a premeditated crime committed against the people. There are those who planned it, those who perpetrated it, those who benefit from it and those who justify themselves now.

On August 4, 2020, a bomb was deposited in the heart of Beirut and war was declared against the people, a war with hundreds of deaths, thousands of wounded, hundreds of thousands of displaced, and immeasurable losses. This war could have been avoided, but it has been going on for many years. This explosion could have been prevented; the dead could have been alive still; and people could have been sleeping in their homes, rather than in the streets. All of this could have been possible, but the bomb went off. Now, the question that remains is: how many bombs are still waiting for us?

On August 4, 2020, the criminal regime stirred a bomb in the heart of Beirut, declaring that there is no limit to its criminal minds.

There is no need for investigations. The truth is clear. It is engraved on the bodies of the dead and wounded, in the devastated streets of the city, in the eyes of the survivors, in the living memory of the victims. We do not need an investigation, and the inquiry commissions will simply be a new version of the amnesty law that put the regime itself in place. Today, the regime has confirmed that it is not only corrupt, crooked or bankrupt, but rather murderous. It is now impossible for us to coexist with it.

On August 4th, 2020, the regime detonated a bomb in the heart of the capital, tearing up the last thread that connected us to it.

We are not searching for proof that could restore our trust in this regime. The responsibility does not lie with those who welded the warehouse door, but with those who welded this system together and turned it into a corrupt, looting and murderous machine. One hundred years after the founding of Lebanon, what happened has sealed the end of all of its social contracts: coexistence, resistance and sovereignty, through its supposed civilizational message. All this has expired, and one thing has become fully clear: we are under occupation.

On August 4, 2020, the regime lost all legitimacy and we have entered into open war with its politicians, its institutions, its parties, its banks and its media. No legitimacy will be restored by commissions of inquiry, ballot boxes or rescue governments. Legitimacy today belongs to those who clean the streets, to those who care for the wounded, to those who mourn the dead.

On August 4, 2020, the regime acknowledges its crime when it declares a state of military emergency. Its only concern is to camouflage its failure, even before counting the victims or providing aid. The declaration of the state of emergency constitutes a waiver of responsibility for rescue and relief. The declaration of the state of emergency is a declaration of war against the survivors. The declaration of a state of emergency is the declaration of the police state that was born from the heart of the explosion.

On August 4, 2020, the regime declared war on us. We declare as of today the beginning of the battle for liberation.

It is no longer October 17<sup>th</sup>. From now on, we will no longer revolt, we will no longer demonstrate, and we will no longer ask, it is time to fight.

We will fight to liberate the institutions from impostors

We will fight to liberate the city from its occupants

\* We will fight to liberate the people's money from the banks' grip \*

\* We will fight to liberate the people from the corruption of the occupying regime \*

\* We will fight to liberate ourselves from this system \*

"Our president" once said, "Let them emigrate if they don't like it." Sir, on August 4, 2020, the battle for your destitution has begun.