



New England Americans for Lebanon

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The day before Lebanon's Independence Day, while a Lebanese citizen was being kidnapped in broad daylight on a busy Beirut street by heavily armed militiamen from Hizbollah, on the other side of town an army of police officers, riot police, and civil defense with water canons were encircling universities where students had decided to mourn their country's lost independence.

In the first incident, the victim placed a call to police for help but no one dared to show up. No one dared to face up to militiamen in this so-called "nation of security and law" as the collaborators in the helm like to call it. No one dared to face up to the party claiming to be "the authority" and "the institutions" in that "nation of security and law".

Meanwhile, on the other side of Beirut, students peacefully protesting in and around their university campuses were being clubbed, insulted, arrested, and injured by the same police force that did not dare help the kidnapping victim.

Even though this type of behavior on the part of the authorities is inexcusable, and we sympathize with the emotional and physical pain Mr. Saleh endures, we see a very positive message coming out of such actions: what really worries the authorities is not the lack of security on the streets, but the determination they see and feel in the eyes and hearts of class after class of Lebanese students defending their country from the occupation. Students, who have been beaten, intimidated, arrested and jailed repeatedly, keep on coming back in bigger numbers and for more in the name of their country and its freedom and independence.

That is what really scares the regime and its militias and will bring an end to it and to the occupation.

Long Live Free Lebanon