

"Khalas," a New Group For Lebanon's Salvation



Civil society activist groups and networks launched "Khalas," a campaign aimed at encouraging the feuding sides to resume national talks in an effort to end to the ongoing political impasse that

has gripped Lebanon for the past nine months.

"Khalas," Arabic for enough, was first mentioned during the mediatory visit of French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner to Lebanon.

Kouchner visited Beirut weeks ago to help broker an agreement between the majority and pro Syrian opposition camps.

He said in his last statement before heading back to Paris that Khalas campaign "will disclose the moods of the Lebanese community" and the will of its diverse sectors to live together in peace.

The campaign will seek to gather thousands of signatures on a petition that will urge the participants to "assume the political responsibility" and abstain from "sectarian instigation" in public and private statements.

Khalas will also organize events and protests to raise awareness against a political vacuum and the much-feared formation of two governments if a new president for Lebanon was not elected on time.

Among the campaign founders was Kamel Mhanna, who represented the Lebanese civil society in the Paris-hosted Lebanon dialogue last month. *(Picture courtesy from as-Safir daily newspaper)*

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