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In new campaign, civil society calls on Lebanon to “Khalass”

Representatives of Lebanese civil society organizations launched yesterday a campaign at UNESCO Palace entitled “Khalass...Together to Save Lebanon.” “Khalass,” the Lebanese word for “enough” or “stop it,” is an imperative (or a plea) directed at the politicians and political forces currently tearing Lebanon apart.

One of the campaign’s first objectives is to gather a million signatures - one-fourth of Lebanon’s population - on a petition expressing support for the campaign’s goals. Representatives of the campaign said at a press conference yesterday that the campaign’s goals include encouraging Lebanese civil society organizations and citizens to help facilitate productive inter-Lebanese dialogue. All political sides, the campaign asserted, should dialogue with one another until a resolution on the current crisis is reached.

The campaign’s representatives also said that they hold all groups jointly responsible for disturbing the civil peace and endangering essential state institutions.

Some of the campaigns most prominent civil society organizers include Dr. Ziad Baroud, the head of the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections and Dr. Kamel Mohanna, the founder of Amel Association.

Both Baroud and Mohanna represented Lebanese civil society at French sponsored talks last month in Le Celle-Saint-Cloud and in Beirut with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Civil society organizations, the campaign believes, can play a crucial role in resolving the current crisis by calling on all parties to dialogue.

Mohanna, in a recent [interview](#) with NOW Lebanon, stressed the need for immediate dialogue. “I’m in fear for our future,” he said, “If we don’t have a solution soon, in the next few months, I’m afraid that we might look like Iraq and Palestine.” He went on to discuss the role that civil society organizations can play in that dialogue in addition to Kouchner’s 32 year history of mediation in Lebanon.

-NOW Staff