

## Lebanon MPs speak out on Orthodox law

Lebanese MPs on Monday spoke out on the Orthodox draft law as the joint parliamentary commissions began its meetings to discuss the proposal and which electoral law to adopt for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Future bloc leader MP Fouad Siniora reiterated his refusal of the Orthodox Gathering electoral law proposal, which calls for proportional voting along sectarian lines.

“[The Orthodox proposal] creates rifts within the Lebanese society, violates the constitution, and leads to the breach of coexistence,” Siniora said following the joint commissions’ meeting.

However, Change and Reform bloc MP Ibrahim Kanaan said that his fellow bloc MPs are going to vote for the Orthodox proposal “because it provides real proper representation.”

“Christians shouldn’t have to pay for living across different Lebanese regions.”

Kanaan also criticized what Siniora for saying that he would support an electoral law which has the approval of the majority of parties.

“The approval of six blocs out of eight on the Orthodox law is not a majority?” he asked.

The joint parliamentary commissions met on Monday after a parliamentary sub-committee wrapped up its meeting on Saturday

evening without reaching a consensus on the adoption of a new parliamentary electoral law.

The joint commissions are tasked with looking into the results that have been reached in the electoral sub-committee's meetings and put the electoral proposals to a vote.

Lebanese parties have failed to agree on an electoral law that will be used to replace the 1960 electoral law currently on the books despite the cabinet's approval in September 2012 of a draft law based on proportionality and 13 electoral districts.

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