



“And be thou upright as thou art commanded, and follow not their desires”
The Holy Quran, 42:15

We, the undersigned, Mohammad Hassan El Amin and Hani Fahs, who are widely acknowledged in form and substance for our respective paths, which have embraced moderation, mediation, relativity and conciliation,

In keeping with our humanity and patriotism, Arab and faith-based background and choices, and our fundamental Islamic belonging—which we have never felt the need nor been asked to deny our Shia specificity, particularly since we have always been convinced that Shiism is intrinsically synonymous with the spirit of Islam in terms of monotheism and the call for unity, as well as in terms of doctrinal openness and a systemic penchant for reform—and in accordance with our mutual acceptance of and periodic corrections to the different paths that comprise the wide, universal Islamic space;

In keeping with our Shia legacy, which has always promoted struggle against oppressors—whomever they may be—and support the oppressed—whomever and wherever they may be;

In keeping with our commitment to the obligations associated with our religious status even when it is undermined by obstacles, daily demagogic speeches, political clientelism and feudal relationships that threaten our intellectual, Islamic, Arab and enlightened roles—responsibilities which could only be stymied by arrogant and inflammatory forces and individuals;

In keeping with our well-known penchant for explicitly opposing wrongdoings and wrongdoers, regardless of how near or far away they may be;

In keeping with our past choices, made during the most difficult times to expressly support those who resisted the Zionist occupation of Palestine and Lebanon, and to oppose “domestic occupation” by those who exploited ideals such as the defense of Palestine, professed to “withstand the enemy,” an ideal that runs counter to the will of its people and Arabism in general, and those who defied that will without attempting to distinguish between the oppressors and the oppressed.

We call upon *our* people to be consistently true to themselves and to support the Arab uprisings.

We call upon them to have confidence in the eventual outcome of these uprisings and to be invested in their future, from the perspective of reason and fraternity, particularly with the Syrian people, for their uprising is just and will be victorious in the acknowledgment of God’s will.

This English translation of the joint declaration made August 9, 2012 by senior Shia clerics Sayyed Mohammad Hassan al-Ameen and Sayyed Hani Fahs in support of the Syrian people’s uprising was accomplished by ShiaWatch. While we consider this translation very accurate, the original Arabic text is extremely short and contains numerous connotations, suggestions and references. Thus, we provide this disclaimer to recognize that different interpretations may exist.

We call upon *our* people to support the continuation of these just protests, regardless of any suspicious voices that may call for the acceptance of a compromise which would be unjust for the Syrian people, their militants and their martyrs—as we are all witnesses and martyrs through our anger, grief, pain, support, hope and prayers.

We call for an immediate end to the destruction of the Syrian nation and to the continued slaughter of Syrian citizens—and our citizens as well for in fact, a peaceful future for Lebanon can only be guaranteed if Syria becomes stable and free, and transforms itself into a democratic, pluralistic, united and modern state.

Without any ambiguity or hostility, we hereby declare our wholehearted support for and resolute stance in favor of the Syrian uprising, just as we supported the revolutions in Palestine, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Libya, and sympathized with the reformist current and popular opposition movements in Iran, Bahrain, Mauritania and Sudan. We also stand ready to support any popular movement against any regime that has resolved to prevent the progress being made toward achieving deep reforms in order to avoid revolution and overthrow.

Truth has come and falsehood has departed, as it is naturally bound to do. Nevertheless, the fulfillment of justice follows a very long and complicated path that is littered with ambushes and traps. Navigating that path successfully requires tremendous patience, wisdom, enlightenment and protection of the bloodshed of martyrs to prevent colonies of vultures from taking possession of it. Justice demands transparency, dialogue, amiability and criticism. To that end, we will not withhold any informed praise or loyal criticism of justice, truth, struggle and martyrdom because of our pure Islamic memory, our belief in God, and the lessons learned from Karbala—the symbol of martyrdom that unites all monotheists and rejoices in Allah despite and against the oppressors.



Sayyed Hani Fahas stands beside a junior Shia cleric arranging candles they lit February 22, 2012 during a sit-in held in downtown Beirut to support the Syrian people.

Beirut, 9th August 2012