



What is the significance of Al Zabadani – Al Fou’a and Kefraya agreement? Is it the beginning of a new ethnic distribution in the Middle East?

The problematic behind Al Zabadani- Al Fou’a and Kefraya agreement is not limited to Lebanon, for it is based on the identities of the parties in conflict. The agreement was not concluded between a Syrian governmental entity and another entity representing the armed opposition movements, but rather between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the “Ahrar El Cham” movement supported by Turkey and operating under the umbrella of the Islamic Front allied to “Al Nusra Front” in the context of the” Fath army”, under the supervision and with the participation of the United Nations. This agreement leads to a sectarian division within Syrian regions through the evacuation of Sunni citizens from Al Zabadani and Shiite citizens from Al Fou’a and Kefraya. It seems that the new actor on the Syrian scene, i.e. Russia, does not consider itself bound to this agreement, since the Russian air force stroke sites in “Reef Edleb”, a region that should have been subject to the truce stipulated in the agreement.

This is how a region was evacuated of Sunnis for the sake of Shiites and vice-versa. We have previously witnessed this phenomenon in some Arab regions and countries, so where is the situation heading in the region?

Regarding Lebanon, this agreement highlights the fact that Lebanon is not an active player but rather a submissive party. The expulsion of citizens and families from Al Zabadani, Al Fou’a and Kefraya took place through Lebanon, which is considered a clear violation of the country’s sovereignty.

“La Maison du Futur Foundation” will hold a session to discuss the nature of this agreement and its repercussions on all levels, especially since it was concluded under the supervision and with the support of the United Nations. The objective of this discussion is to evaluate the impacts of such an agreement and to determine whether it is a replicable model? Was it implemented in order to ease the tensions and participate to the Syrian conflict resolution or is it an unprecedented measure that might be a first step towards a demographic redistribution that paves the way for a regional path and a new approach in the region? And in this case what will be the repercussions over Lebanon?

In order to have a constructive discussion of this complex topic, we suggest holding a dialogue over an hour and a half, based on three brief interventions, each not exceeding ten minutes, to tackle the following topics:

- 1- The agreement background, its advantages and disadvantages
- 2- Other experiences in the region
- 3- The Lebanese dimension

These interventions will be followed by a discussion managed by a moderator, between the speakers and the other participants, provided that they don't exceed twenty.