



Beirut, January 20th, 2020

To: Mr. Klaus Schwab  
*Chairman, World Economic Forum*  
Mr. Børge Brende  
*President, World Economic Forum*

cc: Ms. Joanna Lahham,  
*Business Engagement Lead- Middle East and Africa, World Economic Forum*

Subject: Your support for democracy & the rule of law in Lebanon

Dear Chairman Schwab & President Brende,

We learnt that a number of Lebanese citizens have been sending messages to the organizing committee of the World Economic Forum asking to uninvite Lebanon's caretaker foreign minister from your current event in Davos. We would like to bring to your attention that these groups are being openly mobilized by political parties or independent individuals who didn't succeed at securing any seats at the last general elections or who have lost their majority representation.

Kindly note that Lebanon's most recent elections, held in May 2018 were monitored by an EU Election Observation Mission (<https://shorturl.at/htyzR>) and were deemed the fairest to ever take place in the country as testified by the mission and other observers. The electoral law in vigor, incorporated the largest amount of reforms in the history of our country, many of which were recommended by the EU.

Being strong believers in democracy and the rule of law, we urge you to consider that the Free Patriotic Movement party (FPM) led by minister Gebran Bassil won the largest number of seats

of any single party. This is a strong testimony of the trust in the values that the FPM stands for and the wide support of the reforms it front-lined for the past 15 years including the crucial electoral law improvements endorsed by the EU. Those were enacted after a 3 years long political tour-de-force spearheaded by the FPM and opposed by all political oligarchs who benefited from statewide corruption over the past 30 years and who had the most to lose from any strengthening of the democratic process. To further outline the scale of the challenges, those reforms and other projects were brought within a gridlocked, confessional political system, mired in corruption and scathed by the effects of regional political upheavals, terrorism & the devastating effects of one of the largest refugee crisis in history.

Being a forum that strongly promotes open society, democratic values and the rule of law, we kindly ask you to ignore these baseless -character assassination seeking- requests that are being advanced from a highly mobilized & organized groups attempting to illegitimately reverse the results of our democratic process.

Please understand that given our recent history of conflicts, our pluralism, intricate internal balances and the unfortunate situation in our part of the world, our democracy and civil peace are now at risk, they are the two most cherished values that we absolutely need the international community's help to preserve.

We kindly ask you to consider our request hereby favourably.

Yours truly,

Group of faithful Lebanese citizens