



The following statement was issued by the Media Commission of the World Lebanese Cultural Union:

It was reported in the media that, at an alleged meeting in Ghana, individuals who falsely forged themselves as a new administration of the Union were in a travesty of fraud, and therefore we declare that:

1. The World Congress of the World Lebanese Cultural Union will be held in Bogotá, Colombia, on 23, 24 and 25 May 2019, and any such suspicious call does not concern the Union in any way whatsoever.
2. We thank the former World Presidents, all the World Vice-Presidents in the Regions, all the Regional Geographic Chairpersons, their VP's and their administrations, all the Presidents of the National and State Councils, their VP's and administrations, all the heads of Chapters and Branches, the World and Regional Secretaries-General, The chairpersons of the World Commissions, The Chairman and Administration of the World Council of Youth, all the members of the World Council and every member of the Union, for the intuitive, swift and responsible solidarity in the pronouncement of this suspicious call by Chakib Rammal and his small group, that doesn't represent but itself! This remarkable unity will be translated into the forthcoming World Conference in Colombia, in its attendance, cohesion and democracy.
3. The two alleged national councils of Ghana and British Columbia, which are behind this dubious call, are dissolved by virtue, for they have not participated, neither in regional meetings or conferences, nor in World Council meetings or World Conferences since the expiration of the mandate of former World President Michel Doueihy, and they have not performed their duties as per the constitution, they are regarded as legally repealed and not enlisted on the Electoral College list. We extend our gratitude to the individual members of these two councils who have contacted us to denounce the actions of their officials and are ready to reorganize these two councils within the Union.
4. The individuals who participated, regardless of their poor number (8 persons), did not have any formal representation from any National Council or Chapter of the Union and do not enjoy any representation as a constitutional authority, even some of those who were present (as few

as they were) do not belong to the Union at all, and therefore, this small coup group is far from being capable of indenting an institution that is commemorating its 60th anniversary in Colombia this year, a Union that is renewing itself and developing its institutions. A Union which has challenged the era of hegemony and its tools will not blink the face of the small power-hungry players who have submitted their papers to some influential bodies so they can cause turmoil within the Union.

5. The supreme authority of the Union is the General Assembly, and no authority is above it. This General Assembly, according to the Union's Bylaws, when it takes a decision, it must be implemented by all, from the president to the members, and thus, the decisions of last September's Paris Conference, that were adopted unanimously, dictate the procedure, and the claim of a vacuum in the Union is a claim that is rejected, because the vacuum exists only in some diseased heads, and that our next World Conference in Colombia comes to culminate, forever, on the sixtieth anniversary of the Union, its struggles over the years, its institutionalization as a Trans Global Organization, non-governmental, non-Profit, independent, strong in its bright history and eager towards the future.

6. The debates and the divergence of views were never a disadvantage, but rather a healthy factor in our practice of a democracy within the institutional framework, and only under the Constitution of the Union, and it is a shame for those who are blinded by the lust for power, performing lies and hypocrisy in a ridiculous act of a coup, which is a culture inherited from the worst dictatorships in the world, and we will not allow it to contaminate our institution. They acknowledge in their statement that the World Conference of the Union is scheduled to be held in Colombia next May, and this recognition alone adds to their hollow claims, and if the intentions are true, they would have come to the conference to deliberate while staring at the eyes of the participants from every Continent, not as they did, deviously and in a betraying manner.

7. We affirm, for the millionth time, that there is no politics within the Union, and Lebanese politicians have no authority on it, this has not happened in the past and will not happen today! But, let it be known also, that the country and its causes are always on the platter: we frankly state our opinion about all matters concerning the expatriates and their issues, the independence of Lebanon, its freedom and sovereignty are a red line, politicians may concur with what we sometimes propose, and we may disagree with them other times, it is not of a concern, the Union was and will remain the conscience of the Lebanese emigration, whether some would like it or not, and let all politicians, who are annoyed from the Union's nationalistic positions, know that we will remain annoying to them in telling the truth, in defending Lebanon and the Lebanese, as we give them an advise to learn from how we faced the past hegemonies. Intimidation does not scare us, and the distributions of certain titles and positions do not tempt us. The distributions of positions to some small people will not affect our principles despite all conspiracies.

8- The Union will take all disciplinary and legal measures against all those who fraudulently used the logo and the name of the Union, those who called a pitiable meeting "conference",

and who insulted the World Council, the Continents, the National Councils and chapters by this intentional act, deceiving their guests, that we regard and respect, and officials In Ghana, about the meeting and its title and its depiction as a conference, they distorted what symbolizes the statue of the Lebanese-Ghanaian Friendship, which was established by the Union in Ghana!

We offer our apologies, on behalf of the Union, in the name of the community in Ghana and on behalf of the expatriates, from the Ghanaian officials and from the Ghanaian host people for the rudeness and the lies! We call upon the Lebanese Ambassador in Ghana to take the necessary action at this level. We refuse, as a Union, to use the name of the Union with false invitations, distorting its image and the image of the Lebanese community. May God have mercy on you, President Eid Chedrawi and the good deeds that you have planted in Ghana!