

THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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There is no doubt that the stability of any country is closely associated with protecting the national security and the extent to which each citizen is concerned about the level of security and protection, especially of those close to the circles of decision-making in issues related to international relationships and their mechanisms.

If the national security of an independent and a sovereign country is a red line that cannot be crossed or whose crossing cannot be tolerated, the preservation of this line requires an ongoing, scholarly and methodical awareness, culture and education about the concept of national security. I can say that holding intensive courses about this concept for persons expected to occupy leading positions has become an urgent necessity, because the technical, technological and administrative skills may not be sufficient in forming a comprehensive vision that leads to the correct direction and course as long as persons have no farsighted and comprehensive vision of the effect of any decision they take on the national security.

It may not occur to some people that the decisions or the actions that they take or the relationships that they establish may have a negative effect on the national security. This might not be intentional, but it might be the result of lack of knowledge or insufficient knowledge of national security. However, the current stage and the circumstances that the country, the region and the whole world undergo necessitate that ordinary citizens, let alone those in charge or the decision-makers, be thoroughly familiar with the national security of their country whether in taking the decisions or in establishing relations or in concluding agreements and protocols.

If the level of awareness of the importance and danger of everything related to national security varies from one person to another for many considerations including: culture, keenness on the national interests, showing concern for the homeland and giving the national interests priority above any other considerations, then the following procedures are necessary:

A- More education and awareness of the concept of national security through holding intensive courses for all those who are going to occupy leading positions.

B- Raising awareness of the concept of national security and the necessity of preserving it on the part of politicians, thinkers, writers, intellectuals and the media, especially those who have a penetrating vision and mature awareness of the concept of national security. This should be considered one of the most important elements of the country's stability.

C- The necessity of advance coordination with the concerned bodies before concluding any agreements or protocols with any foreign institutions to avoid any penetration or negative effects on our national interests even if not on purpose.

Before any important decision, the concept of national security requires familiarity with the internal and foreign political conditions as well as the regional and international political conditions along with the consideration of our Arab and African depth and Muslim world dimensions. The positive and negative effects of important and vital decisions on each of these relations as well as the priorities, the significance positions and the margins of movement in all directions must be studied.

There is no doubt that the political, military, economic, cultural, technical and media relations affect one another because it is no longer possible to separate them completely so that each institution can act as if it lives in a world that is specific to it. However, each institution should take into consideration the effect of their procedures on other national institutions. There is no doubt that this consideration requires a deep national sense and a considerable practice and experience. It also requires that we all work as a team. All people in charge must shoulder full responsibility for the tasks assigned to them with a high level of understanding and awareness of the work of their team and the requirements of taking decisions in the institutions to which they belong.

It is a truism that nations cannot achieve stability only with good intentions without awareness, planning and watchfulness in a world where the strong devour the weak. The Second Caliph, Umar Ibn al-

Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) used to say, "I am not to deceive, nor do I allow someone to deceive me!"

Al-Mughira Ibn Shu‘ba said, “Were it not for Islam, I would use cunning that the Arabian Peninsula would not tolerate.” There must be good work with good intentions. Allah, the Almighty, says, “Say, [O Muhammad], Shall we [believers] inform you of the greatest losers as to [their] deeds? [They are] those whose effort is lost in worldly life, while they think that they are doing well in work” (the Quran, 18: 103-104). That is why the Quran stresses the conditions of trustworthiness and competence, because none of them alone is sufficient. Allah says at the tongue of the daughter of Prophet Shu‘ayb, “O my father, hire him. Indeed, the best one you can hire is the strong and the trustworthy” (the Quran, 28: 26). Allah also says at the tongue of Prophet Yūsuf (Joseph) (peace be upon him), “Appoint me over the storehouses of the land. Indeed, I will be a knowing guardian” (the Quran, 12: 55).