

Press release: Waste Management Coalition
For immediate release
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7ara2to Samana: Black smoke in the skies of Karantina

22 January 2019: Under the slogan "7ara2to Samana- You burned our sky", the Waste Management Coalition has prepared and installed a shocking art installation 12-meter-long which represents a flag made of black smoke, near the site of a planned waste incinerator in Beirut.

The flag that was raised symbolizes the black landscape that will surround Beirut area and its surrounding if we do not move quickly to stop the adoption of incinerators as a solution for waste management in light of the poor management of public facilities in Lebanon. The flag was made of black smoke and aims to raise awareness about the future of Beirut if the incinerator will to be built in the coming period.

The coalition has ensured that the smoke used is non-toxic, as opposed to the smoke that can be emitted from incinerator stacks, which may contain acid gases, heavy metals, poisonous gases and that can cause congenital malformations and cancer to name a few.

The decision to adopt incinerators in the absence of an integrated system for waste management and in light of the composition of waste which is mainly organic and cannot be burnt, is the worst decision that the Lebanese government may take to address the waste crisis. Burj Hammoud and Ashrafieh will bear the heaviest load of daily smoke. The gases emitted from the incinerator will increase air pollution, will directly affect the health of the Lebanese, and will decrease the economic value of their properties. The construction of an incinerator in Beirut will encourage the installation of large and small incinerators throughout Lebanon. There are dozens of incinerator projects that are planned for the near future.

The Waste Management Coalition has presented in several events a set of suggestions, recommendations and alternative solutions to incinerators. Again, the Coalition mentions the importance of investing in alternatives and solutions that begin with waste minimization and reuse, the sorting of recyclable materials and their recycling into new products, the treatment and conversion of organic waste into compost, the conversion of waste into new products or upcycling and the disposal of the remaining small quantities in sanitary landfills.

The Coalition calls on all those who are convinced that the planned incinerators in Lebanon are not a proper solution to the waste crisis, visit StopTheIncinerators.me and sign today the petition in support of a healthy and safe future for Lebanon.