

The National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared

Beirut, 6 July 2021

Press release

The National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared (the Commission) held on Monday, July 5, 2021, a joint meeting with the administrative body of the Committee for the Families of the Kidnapped and Disappeared in Lebanon (the Committee), at its headquarters in Furn El Chebbak, then held its periodic meeting to discuss the issues on its agenda. It has the following statement:

- 1- The Commission welcomes the communication and cooperation with the Committee of the Families and expresses its gratitude for providing its offices temporarily to hold the Commission's meetings. During the meeting, views were exchanged on how to move forward together to resolve the issue of the missing and forcibly disappeared, and to enhance cooperation between the Commission and the Committee and with all concerned parties. The Commission affirmed its legal and moral commitment to the cause and pledged to work on overcoming any obstacle that may prevent from performing its duties. The Commission was keen to have its first meeting with the Committee of the Families to demonstrate its commitment to their cause. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the role of the Committee in issuing Law 105 and highlighted the importance of organising continuous meetings with both parties, with the Lebanese official stakeholders, and with the relevant international organizations. The Commission is willing to sign cooperation protocols with the Committee of the Families and with all concerned parties.
- 2- In regard to what was published in one of the media outlets about the resignations of four members of the Commission, the Commission's President, Judge Sélim el-Osta and its members explained that the Commission is working in accordance with the provisions of Law 105 with honesty and accuracy. The Commission duly elected its bureau in accordance with Article 14 of Law 105 and it continues to work with determination to carry out its tasks and perform its role.
- 3- A soon as the Commission has been informed about the resignation, and despite the fact that this resignation should have been submitted to the Commission directly, the latter decided to proceed with the following action: after the Commission has established the members' insistence on their resignation, the Commission decided unanimously during its meeting on July 5, 2021 to declare the vacancy of four memberships pursuant to Article 16 of Law 105. This action obliges the President of

the Commission to notify this within a week. Accordingly, the President of the Commission sent letters on its behalf to the Council of Ministers and to the relevant entities represented by the resigned members to suggest their replacements, wishing the resigned members success, and wishing the authority responsible for the appointments - that is, the Council of Ministers - to do what is necessary to appoint replacement members within a deadline of three months provided for by Law 105, Article 16.

Beirut on July 6, 2021

President of the National Commission for Missing and Forcibly Disappeared

Judge with honors Sélim el-Osta

For correspondence:

The temporary offices of the Commission:

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