الهيئة الوطنية للمفقودين والمخفيين قسراً
لبنان
National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared
Lebanon
الجمهورية اللبنانية

LEBANON

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MISSING AND FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

Clarifying the fate and whereabouts of the missing

Advancing families' **right to know**

HUMANITARIAN INDEPENDENT NON-JUDICIAL

01

The Right to Know

A national mechanism to act on it

For decades, families of the missing and forcibly disappeared in Lebanon have sought answers about the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. Their sustained efforts, together with those of family associations and civil society, kept the issue on the national agenda and advanced recognition of families' right to know.

This long-standing mobilization contributed to the adoption in 2018 of Law No. 105 on Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons, which recognized the right to know and established the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared (NCMFD).

Constituted in 2020, NCMFD is the independent national institution entrusted with implementing this humanitarian, non-judicial mandate and bringing together the functions required to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing and forcibly disappeared persons.

2018

Law No. 105 on Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons

2020

NCMFD is the independent national institution

02

NCMFD at a Glance

ESTABLISHED BY	Law 105/2018 on Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons
STATUS	Independent national institution with legal personality and administrative and financial independence
MANDATE	Clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing and forcibly disappeared persons and advance the resolution of individual cases
APPROACH	• Humanitarian • Independent • Non-Judicial

03

Who Falls Within the Mandate?

Law 105 establishes a broad framework covering missing and forcibly disappeared persons.

Missing Person

A person whose relatives do not know their whereabouts as a result of armed conflict, abduction, disaster or any other cause.

Forcibly Disappeared Person

A missing person whose disappearance results from arrest, detention, abduction or another form of deprivation of liberty, followed by refusal to acknowledge that deprivation or concealment of the person's fate or whereabouts.

Definitions adapted from Article 1 of Law No. 105/2018.

04

Families' Right to Know

At the heart of Law 105

Law 105 recognizes the right of families to know the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives. Where a missing person is deceased, this includes the right to know the location of their remains, to have them identified and to receive them in accordance with the Law.

The Law also provides for access to information related to the search and requires that the rights of families of missing and forcibly disappeared persons be guaranteed without discrimination.

THE RIGHT TO KNOW

- To know the fate and whereabouts
- To know the location of their remains
- To have them identified
- To receive them in accordance with the Law

Families at the Centre

For NCMFD, families are rights-holders and partners throughout the process. Their dignity, participation, safety and confidentiality are integral to the implementation of the Commission's mandate.

What NCMFD Does

From information to answers

NCMFD brings together the information, inquiry, investigation, forensic and family-engagement functions required to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing and forcibly disappeared persons and advance individual cases.

01 Information & Central Records

Receives, consolidates, verifies, cross-references and protects information concerning missing and forcibly disappeared persons within the Central Records established under Law 105.

02 Inquiry & Investigation

Pursues relevant information and investigative leads, obtains information from families, witnesses and other persons with relevant knowledge, and seeks records and information that may contribute to clarifying individual cases.

05

03 Search & Burial Sites

Receives and assesses information concerning possible burial sites and exercises the functions provided under Law 105 for their documentation, protection, investigation and, where applicable, excavation.

04 Forensic & Identification Processes

Oversees and coordinates processes provided for under Law 105 for the recovery, examination and identification of human remains, drawing together case information, forensic findings, biological reference samples and DNA analysis and matching through the competent national institutions.

05 Families Throughout the Process

Maintains communication with families, facilitates their participation, keeps them informed about progress and challenges, and provides support in connection with the implementation of the Commission's mandate.

How the Process Connects



06

Institutional Structure

Four specialized operational units

NCMFD's institutional structure provides for four specialized operational units, bringing together the complementary expertise required to implement its mandate.

Data, Central Records & IT Unit

Management and protection of the Central Records; information consolidation, verification, cross-referencing and analysis.

Inquiry & Investigation Unit

Inquiry, investigation and development of information and leads to advance individual cases.

Forensic & Criminal Evidence Unit

Specialized expertise relating to burial sites, human remains, forensic processes and identification.

Missing Persons' Families Support Unit

Communication with families, meaningful participation, support and referral throughout the process.

Exhumation Committees

Separate from the four permanent units, Law 105 provides for a multidisciplinary committee to be constituted for an individual burial site when the conditions established by the Law are met. These site-specific committees carry out the functions assigned to them under Law 105 in relation to excavation, recovery, examination and identification of human remains.

07

An Integrated Approach to Clarifying Cases

Connecting information, expertise and institutions

Clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons may require information, expertise and action across different institutions and disciplines. NCMFD provides the institutional framework for bringing these elements together around individual cases, while respecting the respective responsibilities of competent institutions.

Human Remains Management & Humanitarian Identification

Where a search involves human remains, identification requires a coordinated multidisciplinary process linking information about the missing person with evidence obtained through the recovery and examination of remains.

Within the framework of Law 105, NCMFD connects case information, burial-site processes, forensic examination, biological reference samples and DNA analysis and matching, drawing on competent national scientific and technical capacities.

This integrated approach supports the dignified management of human remains, reliable identification and, where identification is established, the return of remains to families.

Missing Persons in Emergencies

NCMFD's mandate encompasses missing-person cases arising from armed conflict, disasters and other circumstances covered by Law 105.

An effective response to new cases depends on early documentation, preservation and exchange of relevant information, coordination among competent institutions, and timely communication with families.

NCMFD's institutional role ensures that missing-person cases can be followed beyond the immediate emergency response and addressed through the mechanisms established under Law 105.

08

How We Work

Independence, cooperation and responsibility

NCMFD exercises its mandate independently while working with the institutions, organizations and expertise required to advance individual cases. Cooperation does not alter the Commission's independence or the responsibilities entrusted to it under Law 105.

HUMANITY & THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Families' right to know is at the heart of the Commission's work.

INDEPENDENCE & IMPARTIALITY

The Commission acts independently in the exercise of its functions and addresses cases without discrimination.

CONFIDENTIALITY & DATA PROTECTION

Information entrusted to NCMFD is protected and handled according to defined responsibilities, safeguards and operational need.

DO NO HARM

The dignity, safety and interests of missing persons, families, witnesses and information providers inform the Commission's work.

MEANINGFUL & INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

NCMFD promotes meaningful participation and takes account of different circumstances, needs and barriers to engagement.

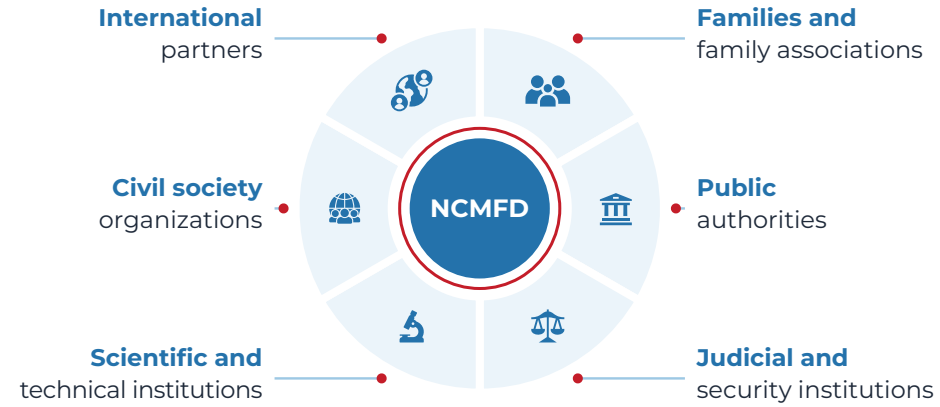
EVIDENCE-BASED & SCIENTIFIC WORK

Information is consolidated, cross-referenced and verified, with appropriate scientific methods applied where required.

09

Working Together

NCMFD works with families and family associations, public authorities, judicial and security institutions, civil society organizations, scientific and technical institutions, and international partners in support of the effective implementation of Law 105.



Institutional Support

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