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Wartime missing: truth might hurt

The families of people missing or kidnapped during the war asked the government once again to help shed light on the fate of their kin during a meeting in Sidon on Monday.

"We ask the government to help us find out about our loved ones despite the fact that the truth may hurt us," said Wadad Halawani, president of the Families of the Wartime Kidnapped and Missing Committee. "We'd mourn them once instead of remaining uncertain for the rest of our lives."

Monday's meeting, which was organized by the Committee of Culture and Literature in Sidon, was held to discuss the fate of some 17,000 people who were either kidnapped or went missing during the war.

Families held a demonstration in late October to attract attention to their plight. Their protests drew the support of several MPs.

The families complained that the government was not following up on the issue despite the fact that 25 years have passed since the war began.

The committee asked the government to ratify a social-welfare program for the families, which will provide them with regular payments and set up a fact-finding mission to investigate the whereabouts of their relatives.

They also asked the government to build a memorial for the missing and declare April 13, the date the war began, as a day of memory for them.



Halawani wants answers "despite the fact that the truth may hurt"

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