

Lebanon News

Aug. 30, 2018 | 03:08 PM

Families commemorate International Day of the Disappeared



BEIRUT: Protesters gathered Thursday at the Gibran Khalil Gibran Garden Downtown and marched to Parliament to commemorate the International Day of the Disappeared.

The event was attended by about 100 people, and had been organized by the Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and Disappeared in coordination with the human-rights association Act for the Disappeared.

Those gathered spoke about the commemorative day and condemned the government for its failure in helping locate the missing. To push for action from officials, participants wrote on scarves the name of a missing person, in some cases a family member, and the date of his or her disappearance or

kidnapping. They then donned or held up the scarves and marched from the garden to Parliament, where they stood.

For years, families of those who have been kidnapped or disappeared without any trace have gathered annually on Aug. 30 to raise awareness of the many Lebanese who have gone missing since the start of the Civil War, in 1975, right up to the present day.

But this year, families of such victims have more cause for hope than they have had in previous years. A draft bill to set up a national commission for the disappeared has recently been submitted to Parliament, and families wait eagerly for government to move to pass it.