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## NGO campaign remembers war victims

*'Political ideology bans dialogue on equality'* Daily Star

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Special to The Daily Star

BEIRUT: Political conduct "aimed at eliminating or obliterating the Lebanese civil war's victims and the public's collective memory" is the main cause behind the ongoing suffering, according to several organizations, associations and civic societies on Friday.

A group of local NGOs held a gathering in Beirut to announce a campaign for remembrance and the achievement of justice for civil war victims.

"Political ideology now bans any dialogue on equality and is focused on strengthening sectarianism rather than the individual identity of the human being," said a group statement.

The organizers questioned the chances left for those wounded in the war after the government had "denounced its responsibilities toward them."

Twenty-one organizations participated in the campaign, including The Follow-Up Com-

**|| 'For how long will the wounded and their families try to seek help?'**

mittee for the Support of Lebanese Detainees in Israeli Prisons, The Lebanese Handicapped Union, The Aamel Charity Organization, The Social Movement, *Al-Yasari* magazine, the Lebanese Associa-

tion for Human Rights and the Permanent Peace movement.

"For how long will the wounded and their families try to seek help ... without being rejected? And when will the government start working according to Law 220/2000, which protects the rights of those wounded in the war?" the statement asked.

Organizers said "no real reconciliation can ever be reached" on the rights of the displaced "when it lacks the humanitarian aspects and self-criticism."

This latest gathering follows a series of preliminary meetings begun in April, where parties decided "to work hand-in-hand in a campaign" aimed at liberating victims from the past and bringing them justice.



People display photos of relatives killed or lost during the war.

Photo by Azakir