

Representative of the International Red cross,

Representatives of the committees concerned with the disappeared persons.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Due to the presence of the President of the Bar Association abroad, I was assigned on his behalf to welcome you here.

First of all, and in this occasion, I thank all for your efforts to uncover the facts related to this difficult file of the missing persons.

Unfortunately Lebanon is still suffering from instability in the political and security field that makes your work on this file harder.

As you know, the Bar Association participated before as a member in the national committee for the disappeared persons and believed to be alive, and presented a report mentioning 300 persons at least who are still alive in Syria and in Israel.

The Bar also represented the missing persons before the high commission of Human Rights in Geneva, and will continue to support and encourage all the efforts aiming to reveal the hidden facts of this difficult file.

Furthermore, the Bar Association urges the Lebanese government to join the International convention for the protection of the disappeared persons in order to benefit from its provisions.

Also we ask you to follow up the file of missing persons which is still in the hands of the high Commission of Human Rights, and ask the government to meet the demands of the committee of the missing persons to create an independent commission to work exclusively on this issue.

Finally, we thank the International Red Cross for all its efforts in assisting the two committees as it did before with the bar association to help clear up the situation of the missing persons in Israel and we hope that it will continue with these efforts in the future.

Thank you

On behalf of the President of the Bar Association,  
The President of the committee for defending public freedom and human rights  
Dr. Abdul Salam Cheaib