



Beirut 16 December 2014

Our meeting today carries an unprecedented importance, first we meet for the first time in the lawyer's house and in coordination with the Bar Association to raise the issue of the victims of enforced disappearance and the missing, this place from which would spring the solution to this issue and to do justice to the victims and to their families and to hold accountable the perpetrators and the criminals, secondly because we renew our confidence in the International Committee of the Red Cross and its dedication to the cause of the forcibly disappeared and the missing in Lebanon through the delivery of a copy of the file that we received from the Lebanese Government. We have our cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross for many years and the confidence among us was consolidated more. Today we put in the custody of the Commission the official investigation file (or its alleged investigations) so as to continue to work together until we get to the day when the State becomes a State that is responsible to its citizens and does what is needed to protect their rights. Then our role as local and international associations would be to help the State to complete its duty and not to do the assignment on its behalf. Here it should be noted that putting the file in the custody of the International Committee is for the purpose of preserving and protecting it. Any consultation of the information contained therein should communicate with the two committees namely SOLIDE and the Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and the Missing.

The next necessary and pressing step now after receiving the file is entitled DNA database for the families of victims of enforced disappearance and missing persons. The creation of this database is the most basic duties of the State, not to say it's obvious however we are still at the stage of urging the State to accept the principle of a DNA bank. Successive Governments have claimed that the file of the missing would restore the civil war but would the DNA Database bring back the civil war and how? These arguments are flimsy and do not absolve the State of its responsibility towards its citizens.

I won't talk long because we are not here to shed the light on the felonious inadequacy of the Lebanese State, this inadequacy that oppresses the victim and its family once again ... We are here to renew our Covenant with a firm voice that the fight for our right to know the fate of our brothers and sisters who had been deprived of liberty and of life also in a continuous crime against humanity will never stop before we know their fate. Thanks for the International Committee of Red Cross for their cooperation with us and thanks for the Bar Association for hosting this event.