Stolen Lives

Lebanon witnessed a war that lasted for 15 years (1975 – 1990) and caused 150,000 deaths, around 17,000 missing and forcibly disappeared persons, and hundred thousands of wounded and displaced; furthermore, an enormous volume of destruction and material damages were recorded, affecting the country at all levels.

Since the end of the war in 1990, the successive Lebanese authorities failed to grant the affair of the missing and forcibly disappeared persons the right amount of concern in order to solve and conclude it. They ignored the claims filed by the family of those victims during the years of war that is still ongoing till the present time.

My project aims at highlighting such humanitarian cause and inciting the officials to assume their obligations in this regard. It also aspires at supporting the struggle faced by the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared persons, in order to entitle them to be informed about the status of their concerned relatives.

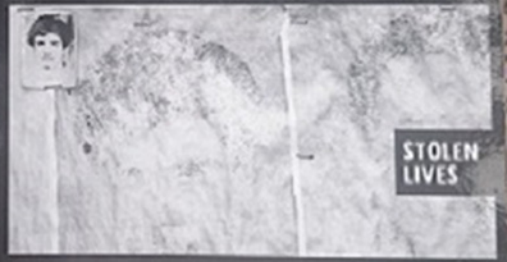
It is known that the kidnapping and hiding operations were executed by the fighting Lebanese militias, as well as some regional armed forced that were present at that time.

It is also known that most war leaders and proponents are still alive, living and freely moving among us. They are an integral part of our society. Each one of them occupies a job and interests varying now from the ones occupied during war. However, each one of them has a great memory.

Nevertheless, it is unknown that this is attributed to the delay of Lebanese authorities to this day and their failure to make a serious decision in terms of ending the suffering of many thousand families, instead of intensifying their agony, given that the war ended 27 years ago. It is no longer acceptable that these families still have to endure this non-ending waiting phase and ignore whether loved ones are alive or dead.

The cause of the missing and forcibly disappeared persons is a humanitarian and national cause, it concerns us all. It is true that the number-one priority resides in the right of the families to be advised about the status of those victims. However, it is also our right.

We are all concerned and responsible towards asking the Lebanese authorities, and the local and international communities to work on resolving this pending cause dating back to the war years. The past refuses to be forgotten before finding a proper solution for this cause.



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Karantina, Beirut, 2016

The tent of the victims of enforced disappearances and the missing, Beirut, 2011

Qleiat, Lebanon, 2012

The tent of the victims of enforced disappearance
and the missing, Beirut, 2011