



Catherine Ashton

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 15 April 2011
Our Ref.: B1069

Dear Baroness Ashton,

Never forgotten: Lebanon's missing people

Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to the attached report, *Never forgotten: Lebanon's missing people*, launched on 14 April. The report focuses on the people who disappeared during the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war and are still missing.

The civil war resulted in the mass displacement and transfers of people between groups and across borders. Thousands were unlawfully killed and thousands were victims of enforced disappearances, abductions and other abuse. The Lebanese state's failure to carry out any truth, justice or reconciliation process, combined with the similar failure by the governments of Israel and Syria which were also involved in the conflict, means that the fate of many thousands of people remains unknown and the perpetrators have gone unidentified and unpunished.

The report contains testimony from Wadad Halawani, founder of the Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and Missing in Lebanon, who talks about her life since her husband's disappearance in 1982. She describes the problems faced by families in situations such as her own as not only emotional but also of a personal, social, legal and administrative and economic nature.

In view of this, we urge the EU to use its influence to ask the Lebanese Government:

- Establish an independent national commission comprising, among others, independent experts, members of civil society and relatives of missing people
- Ratify the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance so as to help prevent similar abuses in future

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas J. Beger
Director