



Report update: One year on from the 4 August Beirut Port explosion, victims' calls for justice remain unanswered

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BEIRUT: International human rights NGO Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) says an independent and impartial fact-finding mission remains crucial to investigate the root causes of the devastating port explosion in Beirut, which killed more than 200 people and injured 7,000, one year ago.

LAW's Executive Director, Antonia Mulvey, says "one year of the Lebanese investigation has done nothing to abate concerns over the independence and impartiality of a state-run investigation."

This report is the second published by LAW, following the first comprehensive overview of all publicly available facts relating to the explosion which was released in November 2020, together with nine compelling victim statements.

LAW supports a group of more than one thousand victims of the explosion, who are assisted by ASAS Law, in their pursuit of justice and their request for an independent fact-finding mission to investigate the causes and aftermath of the explosion.

Ms Mulvey said: "nothing will bring back the lives lost on the 4 August 2020, but how can the families of those that died commemorate their loved ones without knowing the whole truth? The best way to recognise and commemorate what happened on that day is to commit to uncovering the truth, and delivering justice."

The victims are requesting the establishment of an independent, impartial fact-finding mission under the UN Human Rights Council, to investigate:

- alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law in the context of the 4 August Beirut explosion, whether before, during or after the explosion;
- to establish the facts and circumstances of the alleged violations and abuses;
- to identify responsibility for such violations and abuses, including those most responsible;
- to make recommendations, in particular on identifying legal responsibility for human rights violations and abuses, with a view to protecting civilians against further violations and abuses; and
- to present an oral update thereon and a final, written report to the Council.

Read the new report [here](#), and read LAW's November 2020 report [here](#).

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