

PRESS RELEASE

BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS CALL ON UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO SET UP TRUTH-SEEKING INVESTIGATION

Beirut, 14 March 2022

Today, a letter signed by 120 victims and survivors of the Beirut Port explosion and supported by Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) has been sent to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet**, requesting a UN led fact-finding mission into the August 2020 Beirut Port explosion.

The letter specifically requests Michelle Bachelet, under the authority of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to dispatch investigators to probe human rights violations related to the Beirut Port Explosion that killed more than 200 people, injured 7,000 and left 150 people disabled.

Over 19 months since the explosion, the domestic investigation has yet to publish any findings, the letter states. Ongoing challenges and systemic flaws, including the suspension on multiple occasions of the Judge leading the investigation and officials' unchallenged impunity, have made the search for truth and securing justice and accountability for victims and survivors of the Beirut Port Explosion increasingly unlikely.

Antonia Mulvey, LAW's Executive Director, said: *"Victims, and the families of those killed, have lived in limbo for 19 months. While others are able to move on and rebuild their lives, the families destroyed by the Beirut Port Explosion cannot. They cannot move forward with their lives until they know how and why this was allowed to happen. It is clear that the domestic investigation will not deliver these answers, and now victims and families turn to the High Commissioner to request her support in their pursuit of truth and justice."*

Notes to Editors

Link to the full letter: [RE: Request to dispatch investigators under the authority of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, into the Beirut Port Explosion and related harms](#)

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For media interviews and requests, please contact mattkyns@gmail.com

LAW is an independent, non-profit organisation of human rights lawyers and jurists working in fragile and conflict affected areas. LAW provides legal aid to victims and communities that have suffered human rights violations and abuses in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

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