

## **Committee to probe existence of Lebanese prisoners in Syria**

Justice Minister Shakib Qortbawi said in remarks published on Wednesday that the judicial committee responsible for the case of Lebanese detainees in Syria will listen to the evidence of a recently-freed Lebanese detainee to find out whether more Lebanese citizens are still detained in Syria.

“The committee will listen to the evidence of ex-detainee Yaaqoub Chamoun as a witness to find out whether other Lebanese nationals were detained with him,” Qortbawi told *An-Nahar* newspaper.

The minister added that a draft law for the establishment of an independent national committee charged with following up on the case of forcibly detained Lebanese nationals will be transferred for approval in the cabinet “before the end of the week.”

Chamoun, one of the longest serving Lebanese prisoners in Syria, was recently released after 27 years.

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