REBEUT: “The files on Dinieh and the Majdal Anjar group are now closed, as are those on Dinieh, Hamida and Rashid Karami,” says Nizar Saghib. “It is atrocious that these cases of crimes against journalists [generally] didn’t question the legal procedures, nor did they look at the crime of murder completely isolated crimes.”

“There is no legal precedent for this. The only thing it can be compared to is a prisoner exchange.”

Saghib is addressing an audience at the Masrah Al-Madiana, part of a recent round-table discussion called “Amnesty versus justice and where memory dwells.” It was staged following “Civil Violence and War Memories,” a symposium organized by UMAM Documentation and Research.

“Lebanon’s amnesty law was a political document,” he continues, “not a legal one.”

The amnesty law in question freed six former government leaders and nine former Jura Brigade cadre from their criminal charges of crimes against journalists. A November 2004 lawLesser included, endorsed, and signed by President Chliché. The law was vetoed by Parliament’s majority, led by Nizar Saghib. Yet, the law was passed by Parliament without consultation with the media, and in the absence of any media input.

“The subordination of legal to political discourse is a general phenomenon in Lebanon,” says Saghib, whose brother, Saleh, was killed in 1984 by the Islamic Movement in Lebanon.

According to Saghib, the amnesty law was a political document, as it granted amnesty to those accused of crimes against journalists.

“Even if you think that the measure is legal, it is not,” says Saghib. “The law that created the measure was legal, but the measure itself was not.”

Saghib adds that the amnesty law is not a legal document, as it was passed without consultation with the media and without the media’s input.

“Lebanon’s amnesty law was a political document not a legal one!”

It is important to know at this point whether the Mehilli investigation is political or not. Assuming the investigation itself is disinterested, it’s still being conducted in an environment of selectivity. In the best-case scenario, Mehilli will approach those re-