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**NATION**

**Only court pronounces missing victims dead**  
By Adnan Shabrawi

JEDDAH – For families to collect the SR1 million in blood money ordered by King Abdullah for each victim of the Jeddah flood, the missing person should be legally pronounced dead by court, judicial sources said. Over 50 people are still missing.

On behalf of the victims' families, a group of lawyers said they will sue the government departments that had failed to prevent the Jeddah flood disaster that has claimed over 113 lives. Real estate developers who knowingly sold residential plots of land in riverbeds will also be sued, sources said.

Lawyer Waleed Abu Al-Khair said he has been officially asked by a number of flood-stricken residents to take responsible authorities to court.

"But I've decided to wait for the ongoing government investigation to be completed, after which the next move will be determined," he said.

Mubti Al-Juhani, a resident, said he has the inside story with a proof that a residential area was built in a valley after a flood dam was destroyed for that purpose.

If flood lawsuits are lodged with the Board of Grievances, they would target the Jeddah Mayorality, the Ministry of Transport, and the General Presidency of Meteorology and Environment Protection, legal sources said. Lawsuits against responsible individuals would be filed with the General Court, the sources said. – Okaz/SG

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