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Centre Libanais des Droits Humains  
المركز اللبناني لحقوق الانسان  
Lebanese Center for Human Rights

# Activities Report

# 2011

The 2011 activities report of the Lebanese Center for Human  
Rights - CLDH

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## DONORS

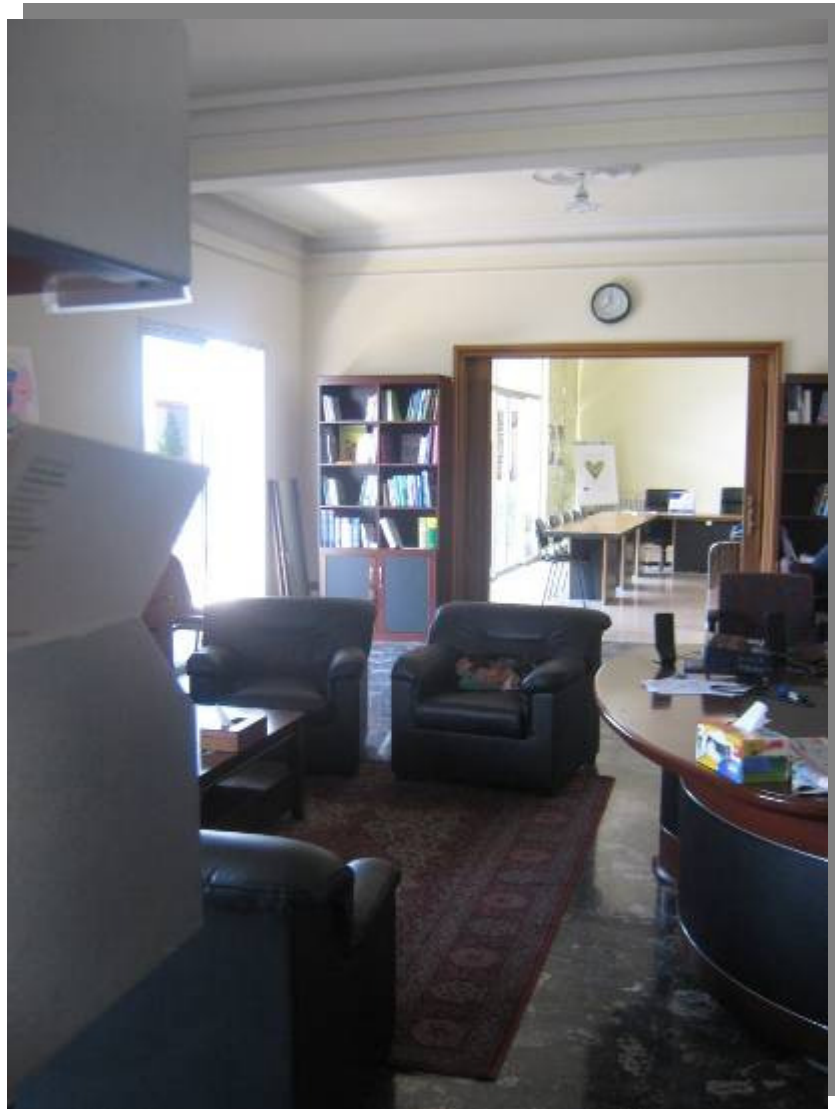
CLDH is extremely grateful for the financial support it receives from individuals, foundations, and embassies, which makes our work in Lebanon possible. Their generosity allows CLDH to respond to Human Rights violations, and to operate independently from political, economic, or religious interests.

- **AEDH** (Working Together for Human Rights) provided CLDH with funds to individually assist victims of arbitrary detention.
- **ACAT France** (Action by Christians against Torture) also funded CLDH activities directed towards victims of torture and arbitrary detention.
- The **Danish Ministry of foreign affairs** granted CLDH a funding for the years 2010 – 2012.
- The **European Union** pursued in 2011 its funding of the project entitled “Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights” implemented by the Italian organization COSV in partnership with three Lebanese organizations, namely Kafa, PPM (Permanent Peace Movement) and CLDH.
- **Oak Foundation / Sigrid Rausing Trust** also financially supported Centre Nassim through **IRCT** (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims).
- **OMCT** (World Organization Against Torture) supported beneficiaries of Centre Nassim through its social assistance program.
- **UNVFVT** (United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture) supports Centre Nassim in the rehabilitation of the victims of torture.
- **Private donors** regularly contribute to the funding of the organization’s activities.

## CLDH new office...

The start of 2011 saw frenzied activity in connection with the move of CLDH main office and Centre Nassim to a single premises in Bakhos Building on Mar Youssef Street, Dora.

The new office was inaugurated in June 23, 2011. CLDH took the opportunity of this opening to reaffirm its stance against torture, and commemorate the International Day in Support of Torture Victims (for further details see report: *Event: One Date, One Place: Let's all stand against torture!*)



CLDH new premises in Dora

# Arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon

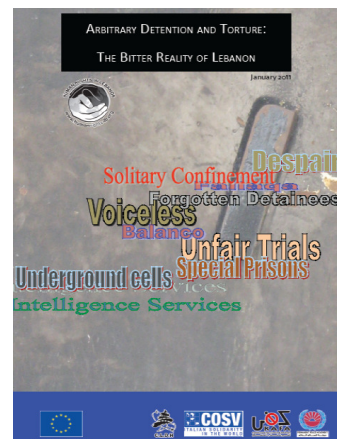
**Objective**                      **Contribute effectively to reducing the practice of arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon**

## ***Research - “Arbitrary detention and torture: the bitter reality of Lebanon”***

### **1. Report**

The report is an in-depth research on the circumstances and patterns of the use of torture and practice of arbitrary detention, which was conducted from March 2009 to December 2010. It includes:

- Statistics on arbitrary detention, torture, their causes and consequences.
- Evaluation of the practice of arbitrary detention in a systematic study of the entire prison population in Lebanon led by the CLDH team between March and September 2009.
- Assessment of the use of torture.



### **2. Public launching – Press Conference**

The report “[\*Arbitrary detention and torture: the bitter reality of Lebanon\*](#)” was publicly launched on February 10, 2011, and well-covered by the media.

### **3. Summons**

In relation with the publication of the report, CLDH members were summoned twice, on March 17 and 22, by the criminal investigation service following a lawsuit filed by Amal Movement against the authors of the said report on arbitrary detention and torture. The lawsuit claimed among other things that the report contains false accusations, defamation and insults, and represents an incitement to sectarian strife.

The Observatory for the protection of Human Rights Defenders<sup>1</sup>, published an urgent appeal on March 16, 2011. The Euro Mediterranean Federation against enforced disappearances (FEMED) also issued a press release titled “[Human rights activists are brought to Justice in Lebanon](#)” on March 29, 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> The Observatory is a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), published an urgent appeal on March 16, 2011.

On July 6 and October 11, 2011, the representatives of CLDH were summoned at the Baabda court in front of investigating Judge Jean Fernaini. The latter has been continuing the investigation into the claim filed by Amal movement against CLDH.

CLDH called for support of human rights organizations, activists and all concerned individuals to show the Lebanese authorities that no intimidation can stop the crucial work being carried out to make Lebanon a better place. Individuals, lawyers and organizations expressed their solidarity with CLDH through press releases, faxes, urgent appeals, emails and phone calls, and also by accompanying the organization's representatives to the summons.

#### **4. Solidarity with a Human Rights Defender in Lebanon**

On July 27, CLDH along with ALEF (Act for Human Rights), Al Karama, Restart Center, and PHRO (Palestinian Human Rights Organization), published a joint press release entitled "*In solidarity with a Human Rights Defender in Lebanon*" to support a Human Rights activist from Al Karama, who was summoned on July 22, to appear before the Lebanese Army Intelligence bureau in Beirut.<sup>2</sup>



**Press Conference**

#### **5. CLDH Robbery**

Late August 2011, unidentified individuals broke into CLDH premises and stole inter alia, money, computer equipment and an official stamp of CLDH. The investigation into the burglary is ongoing.

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<sup>2</sup> Daily Star, *Rights groups condemn arrest of activist Shatila*, July 28, 2011  
<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jul-28/Rights-groups-condemn-arrest-of-activist-Shatila.ashx#axzz1TNehL21V>

## Overall Situation



During 2011, hunger strikes by detainees and riots swept through Lebanese prisons in protest against slow pace of legislative reforms and demanding a general amnesty, timely trials, and improvement in prison conditions.

CLDH firmly expressed its solidarity with the inmates of Roumieh central prison.

Thus, on April 5, 2011, CLDH published a press release calling upon the relevant Ministries to immediately address the situation in prisons.<sup>3</sup>

- CLDH organized a press conference, on May 12, 2011, untitled “*The situation in the Lebanese prisons: Solidarity with the legitimate demands of the inmates*”<sup>4</sup> On this occasion, CLDH published a press release, titled “*Riots and hunger strike in Roumieh prison: detainees and prisoners cannot bear it any longer*”, which included our recommendations for reforms of the prisons system, mostly presented in our 2010 report entitled: “*Prisons in Lebanon: humanitarian and legal concerns*”.
- Open joint letter - On March 14, 2011, CLDH along with 9 other Lebanese and international NGOs published an open letter “*Lebanon: Human Rights Groups Call for Torture Prevention*” addressed to Prime Minister Najib Mikati, calling on the authorities to pass and implement the 2009 draft law prohibiting torture and establishing an independent National Prevention Mechanism, to take necessary measures to end the practice of torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, and to improve prison conditions in order to conform to international standards.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.iloubnan.info/socials/actualite/id/59366/titre/The-Lebanese-Centre-for-Human-Rights-calls-upon-the-relevant-Ministries-to-immediately-solve-the-situation-in-prisons>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/May-13/Prisoners-rights-violations-must-end-watchdog.ashx#axzz1MDXhe5eY>

<sup>5</sup> [http://dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=1&article\\_id=126011#axzz1GhPsBhgG](http://dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=126011#axzz1GhPsBhgG)

## ***Press releases***

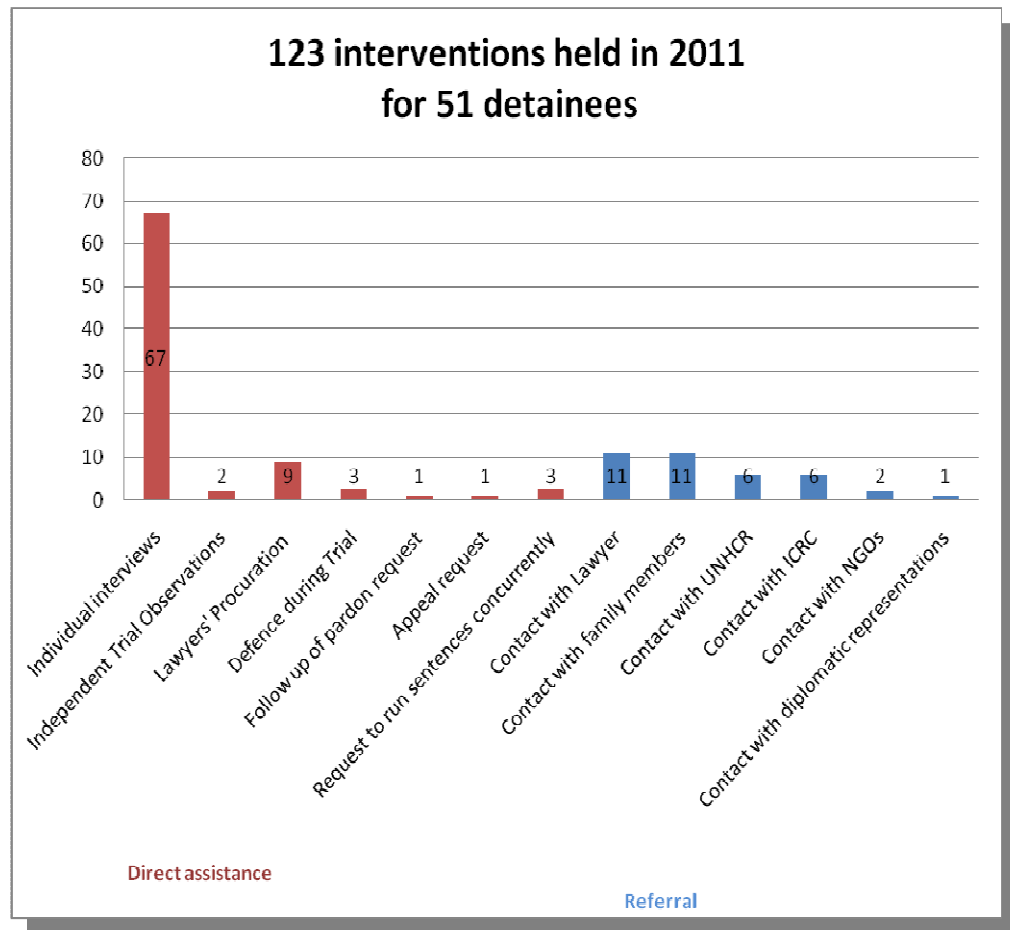
- On December 19, 2011, *Disputed decision to release on bail four alleged spies, CLDH urges the politicians to support the equity of the Judiciary.*
- On December 10, 2011, CLDH endorsed and supported the *Joint Statement on Human Rights Day*, initiated by the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) and thirteen other partner organizations from eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Seizing a historic opportunity to end torture in the Middle East and North Africa, CLDH and all signatories jointly called on all governments of the region to make the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment a reality. To this end, OMCT and partner organizations have set forth a “10 steps” agenda.
- On November 8, 2011, CLDH jointly published, along with Al Karama for Human Rights, the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), ALEF - Act for human rights, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), Working Together for Human Rights (AEDH), and Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT – France), a press release: *Lebanon: Promptly investigate torture and arbitrary detention allegations in the case of Mr. Tarek Rabaa*. The signatories demanded an immediate, independent and thorough investigation into the alleged torture and arbitrary detention of Mr. Tarek Rabaa in Lebanon. Furthermore the organizations called on the Lebanese authorities for his immediate release, if his confession was proved to have been forcibly extracted under torture.
- On October 10, 2011, *World Day against Death Penalty, In Lebanon, the insufficiency and lack of independence of the Judiciary makes death penalty even more unacceptable.*
- On September 20, 2011, *Issam Attieh Said: Freed after 26 years in prison, he should have been released 11 years ago!*
- On August 4, 2011, *Lebanon: Cease Harassment of Human Rights Activist for Documenting Torture - International and Local Groups Condemn Rise in Intimidation of Human Rights Defenders.*



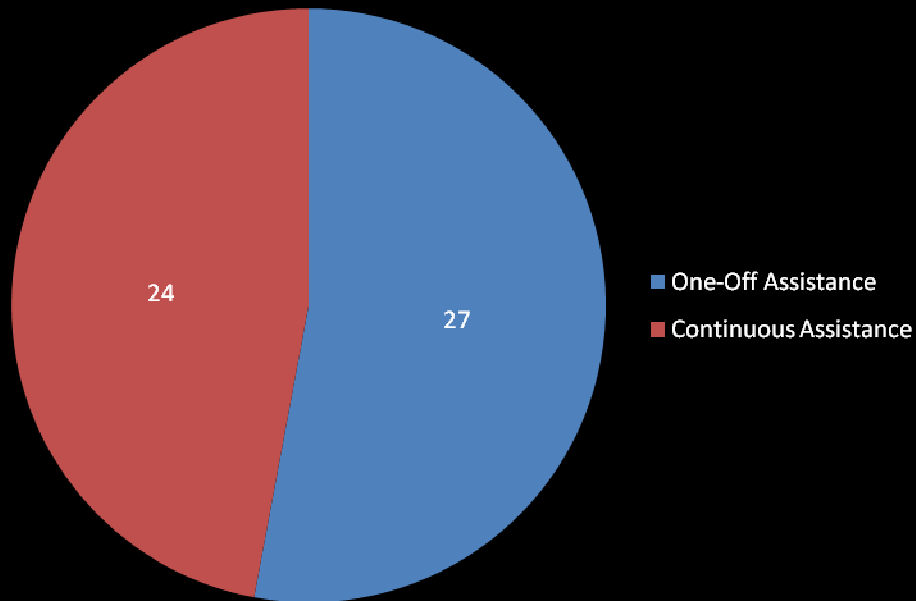
## ***Cases follow up***

With the support of AEDH (Working Together for Human Rights) and ACAT-France (Action by Christians Against Torture), CLDH continued during the reporting period, to visit the Lebanese prisons, and to meet victims of arbitrary detention and/or torture, to document and follow up their cases in accordance with their demands and specific needs.

In 2011, CLDH held 67 interviews with 51 persons in detention, appointed a pro bono lawyer for 9 victims of arbitrary detention and/or torture, and conducted 123 follow up actions, including contacts with family members, UNHCR, ICRC, NGOs, diplomatic representations, trial observations, etc.

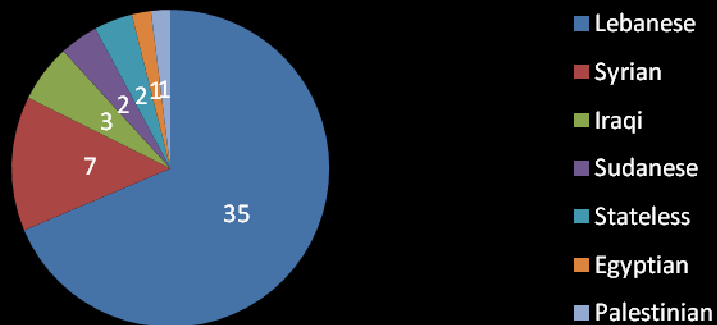


### Assistance provided in 2011 Type of assistance - Number of cases



Type of assistance provided by CLDH team for detainees and prisoners

### Assistance provided in 2011 Nationalities of persons assisted in detention



Nationalities of detainees and prisoners assisted by CLDH team

## **Issam Attieh Said**

Issam Attieh Said, 49 years old, a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, was released on August 2011 after having been jailed in Lebanon for more than 26 years.

Had he been allowed access to a lawyer earlier, Mr. Said may well have been released 11 years ago. Arrested in 1985, Mr. Said was sentenced for 48 offences amounting to a total of 187 years in prison. The conditions of his convictions are suspicious since two of the offences for which he was sentenced were committed in 1986 and 1991 when he was already in prison.

Issam Attieh Said could have been released in 2000. Indeed, he should have benefitted from the implementation of articles 181 and 205 of the criminal procedure code that provides in the case of multiple condemnations, to have sentences run concurrently, reducing thereby the duration of imprisonment to the severest pronounced sentence, i.e. 15 years in prison in his particular case.

But the request to make the sentences run concurrently has to be presented to the judiciary by a lawyer, who Mr. Said could not afford.

Referred by CLDH to Lawyer Hasna Abdul Reda at the beginning of 2011, the latter accepted to deal with the case on a voluntary basis. The legal costs were covered by two of CLDH partner organizations, AEDH (Working Together for Human Rights), and ACAT-France (Action by Christian Against Torture).



***Event – “One Date, One Place: Let’s all stand against torture”***

On June 23, 2011, CLDH in collaboration with partner NGO’s such as ALEF (Lebanese Association for Education and Training), and Al Karama for Human Rights<sup>6</sup>, invited activists, victims of torture, embassies, institutions and concerned citizens on the occasion of the “International day in support to victims of torture” to express their solidarity with the victims.

The event was attended by several civil society representatives, journalists, as well as ISF (Internal Security Forces) officials who actively participated in the debate. Royal Danish Consul, Christian Deloughery, Mexican Ambassador, H.E. Jorge Alvarez, and the Netherlands Ambassador, H.E. Mr. de Boer, Heere Eltje Gerrit also graced the event.



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<sup>6</sup><http://www.iloubnan.info/socials/actualite/id/63243/titre/On-June-23,-CLDH-invites-the-Lebanese-to-stand-against-torture>

The event also provided a forum for:

- A spirited debate into the issue of torture in Lebanon with the government officials present (see picture above)
- Inviting the attendees to sign OMCT petition "[Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances](#)"
- Launching CLDH T-shirts “No to Death Penalty” graciously designed by the famous Lebanese illustrator Maya Zankoul
- Presenting the knitting work of one of Centre Nassim beneficiaries

The following joint press release was issued by ALEF (Lebanese Association for Education and Training), Al Karama for Human Rights and CLDH:

On June 26, “The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is an occasion to underscore the internationally recognized right of all men and women to live free from torture. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to prohibit torture and all cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment” – UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.<sup>7</sup>

In 2010, according to a recent worldwide study<sup>8</sup>, torture was still practiced in more than half of the planet’s countries. Unfortunately, Lebanon is also part of this half that still resorts to this practice.

Indeed in Lebanon, recent statistics<sup>9</sup> show that 60% of the persons having been subjected to arrest and investigation between 2009 and 2010 complained of having been tortured.

However, torture has no deterrent effect (it does not decrease the criminality in the countries where it is practiced), and hinders the proceedings of the judiciary as suspects investigated under torture are forced to sign pre-prepared confession statements.

Victims of torture remain traumatized from their painful experience for the rest of their life and this not only affects their social reintegration but it also jeopardizes the citizens’ trust in the security and judiciary systems.

Lebanon is bound by its international commitments to prohibit torture and ill-treatment such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture, the latter ratified by Lebanon in 2000. Regrettably, the Lebanese legislation falls short in defining and criminalizing these practices.

On December 22, 2008, Lebanon ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), but has not yet complied with its provision calling for the creation of a national preventive mechanism (NPM) to visit and monitor places of detention.

On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, our organizations would like to denounce the frequent practice of torture in Lebanon, to request the Lebanese State to take appropriate measures to prevent it and to express their solidarity with the victims.

Beirut, June 23, 2011

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.acatfrance.fr/rapports.php>

<sup>9</sup> <http://humanrights-lb.org/upload/Torture%20and%20Arbitrary%20Detention%20ENGL.pdf>

## ***Participation at events, European and World Day Against Death Penalty***

### **1. European Union Joint Event**

On October 11, 2011, CLDH participated in the European Union Joint Event, organized on the occasion of the European and World Day against the Death Penalty, at the Lebanese Press Syndicate. Speakers included H.E. Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Mr. Fateh Azzam, Regional Representative of UN-OHCHR Middle East, Ms. Dareen al-Hajj, Association Libanaise pour l'Education et la Formation (ALEF), Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, CLDH Secretary General, and Mr. Nizar Saghie, lawyer following Lebanese violations of human rights.

This interesting debate addressed several topics, including the EU perspective on the Death Penalty, international human rights and the death penalty, the regional perspective on the death penalty, the Lebanese law and the death penalty in Lebanon.

### **2. Flash Mob and Awareness Raising Event**



On October 10, 2011, CLDH team participated in a flash mob organized by AJEM to show support for prisoners sentenced to death and to raise awareness on the issue.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Daily Star, *Workshop calls for abolition of capital punishment in Lebanon*, October 11, 2011, by Marie Dhumieres, <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Oct-11/150972-workshop-calls-for-abolition-of-capital-punishment-in-lebanon.ashx#ixzz1kH2dYzbD>



### **3. Participation in a conference against Death Penalty**

CLDH team participated in a Conference cum Debate on the death penalty organized on December 17, 2011 by the Lebanese League for Civil Rights in partnership with Penal Reform International and funded by the European Union.

#### ***Demonstration***



On November 26, 2011, CLDH team participated in a demonstration held to demand the release of Tarek Rabaa.

Engineer Tarek Omar Rabaa, a 41-year-old Lebanese, arrested in July 2010 and who was allegedly subjected to 108 days of torture and ill-treatment in the Ministry of Defense (certified by a forensic doctor), is facing trial before the Permanent Military Court for alleged collaboration with Israel on the basis of documents produced by the intelligence services, Mr Rabaa has consistently denied ownership of the said documents and he maintains that he refused to also sign these documents even under torture.

## ***Awareness Raising: School Teach in***

At the request of the OHCHR in Beirut, CLDH team was pleased to conduct Teach in on Torture, for school children aged between 10-11 at the El Haj Bahaa Eddine Hariri school in Saida, and for school teenagers aged 15-16 at the Oriental College in Zahle.

### **1. Saida school**

This event started with a presentation on the United Nations prepared by the children on this occasion. The Teach in included a presentation on torture, and CLDH activities that was followed by an open discussion with the children. At the end of the session, the children were asked to share their thoughts and messages for victims of torture, and/or to perpetrators. Their message of support and empathy were subsequently displayed at Centre Nassim.





## **2. Zahle school**

On December 13, 2011, within the framework of the OHCHR Human Rights Education Campaign and celebration of the Human Rights International Day (December 10), CLDH conducted a Teach in on “Human Rights in Lebanon and Torture”. The Teach in targeted students aged 15-16, and included a presentation on the United Nations system, the definition of torture, as well as the rehabilitation of victims of torture and a presentation on Centre Nassim. During this event, students raised many pertinent questions and shared their messages for the beneficiaries of Centre Nassim.



## Centre Nassim for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture

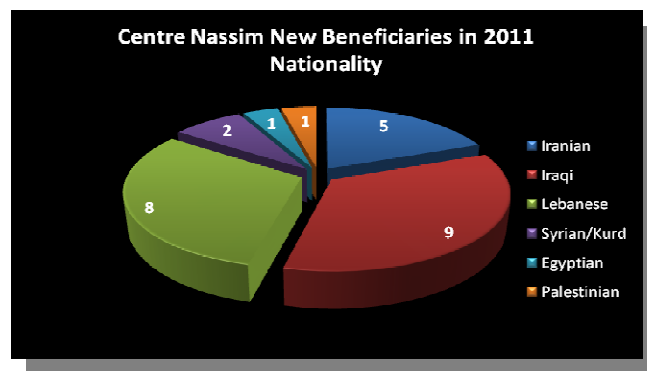
**Objective**                      **Offer and provide multi-disciplinary assistance to the victims of torture**

Centre Nassim which opened its doors in late 2007, continued throughout 2011 to provide multi disciplinary assistance and support to victims of torture.

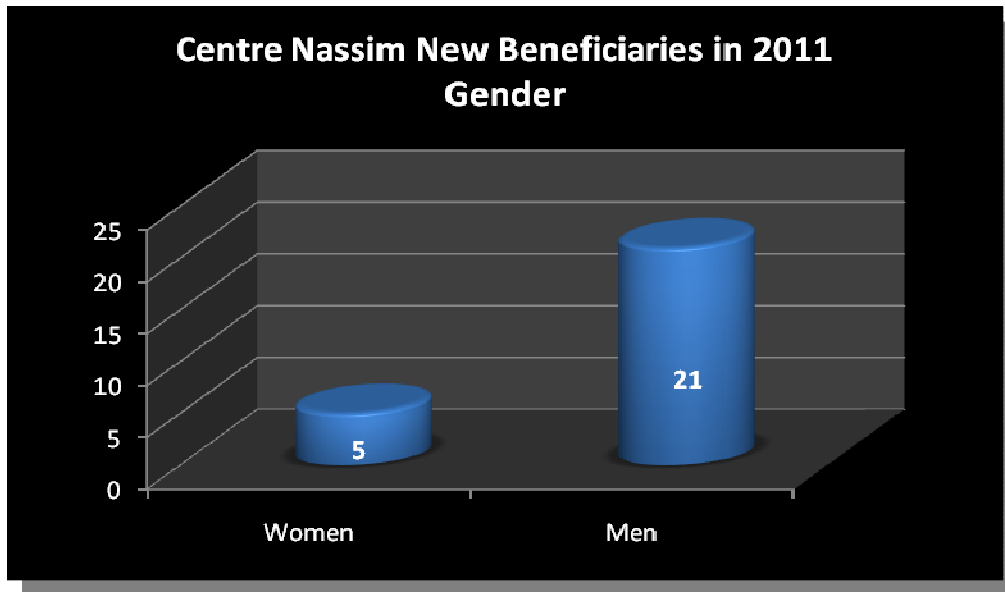
Centre Nassim provides multi-disciplinary professional support and case management for victims of torture and their families. Centre Nassim's success lies in its team that is comprised of well knowledgeable and highly motivated staff.

Throughout the year, Centre Nassim staff members (from the field of psychology, psychiatry, general medicine, physiotherapy, legal counselling, social work and professional reintegration) continued to receive and assist a steady influx of beneficiaries. As of December 31, 2011, Centre Nassim lawyer provided 42 beneficiaries with legal counselling.

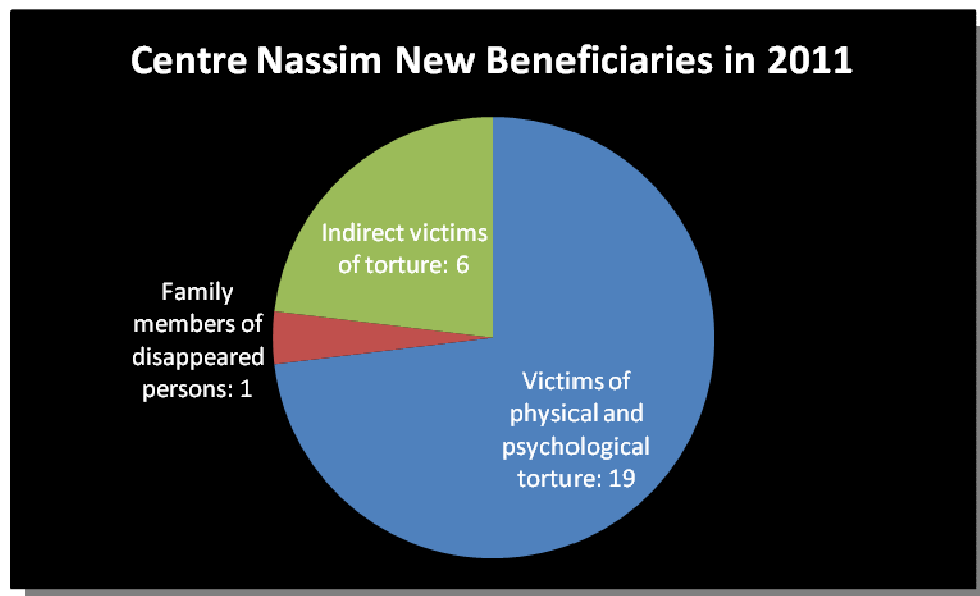
Since its inception, and till December 31, 2011, **222 beneficiaries** had availed rehabilitation services from Centre Nassim. In 2011, **26 victims of torture** were registered as new beneficiaries:



Centre Nassim New Beneficiaries in 2011 - Nationality



Centre Nassim New Beneficiaries in 2011 – Gender



Centre Nassim New Beneficiaries in 2011 - Categories of VoT

## Enforced disappearance

**Objective**                      **Support the families of disappeared and NGO's working with this issue, and contribute effectively to the establishment of truth and justice for all victims of Human Rights violations**

In 2011, CLDH continued to be in the forefront of various activities undertaken in support of families of disappeared and working towards the establishment of truth and justice for all victims of Human Rights violations.

### ***Press Conferences***

On the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lebanese civil war that erupted on April 13, 1975, a press conference was held on April 12, 2011, at the Gibran Khalil Gibran garden in order to send a message to authorities that the suffering of the families of Lebanese missing persons in Syria has not dissipated six years after they erected a tent to make their voices heard. The event took place in the presence of the Committee of Parents of Lebanese Detainees in Syrian Prisons, the Committee of Parents of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Lebanon, the Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile (SOLIDE) and CLDH.<sup>11</sup> Families of the missing persons carried the pictures of their relatives who either went missing or are still allegedly imprisoned in Syria. Parents urged the Lebanese politicians to form a national committee to follow up the issue, create a DNA database and ratify the Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

On February 23, 2011, CLDH along with SOLIDE and the Committees of the families of the missing persons published an open letter to the Prime Minister Najib Mikati, calling on the latter to include a clause on this issue in its ministerial declaration.

On June 13, 2011, CLDH along with SOLIDE and the Committees of the families of the missing persons organized a press conference on the general amnesty announced by the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (decree n° 61), and the fate of Lebanese detainees in Syria regarding the same, recalling the Lebanese authorities inadequate reaction on this issue and asking the latter to "*end this ridiculous scenario and stop playing with the feelings of the relatives of detainees.*"

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<sup>11</sup> <http://old.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&1BF573668F9BE2CFC22578700025CCB5>



**Press conference held on April 12, 2011**

*“ Aad also criticized the work of the joint Lebanese-Syrian commission of inquiry, which “has not been able to solve one case in six years.” Aad then questioned why the Lebanese government refuses to publish the report containing the commission’s work.*

*The Director of CLDH, Wadih Asmar, also criticized the joint commission in a statement, asking “Why hasn’t this joint commission communicated with the families about their cases?”*

*Hassana Jamaledine, a member of the Committee of Parents of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Lebanon, said that the only way to make peace with history is to solve the problem of enforced disappearances.”*

*Daily Star, [Sit-in for missing marks its sixth year](#), April 12, 2011, By [Reem Harb](#)*



**Press conference held on February 23, 2011**

## ***Capacity building Meetings***

In coordination with SOLIDE (Support of Lebanese In Detention and Exile), regular meetings were held with the Minister of Justice, in order to finalize a decree related to the establishment of a national commission against enforced disappearances.

CLDH held 2 meetings with ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice) in order to discuss their draft law on enforced disappearance. In conclusion however, CLDH decided not to support this draft law since it does not guarantee the rights of all the disappeared persons, particularly the persons victims of enforced disappearance and those who may be detained in Syria.

## ***Participation at events***

### **1. Conference, International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances**

In November 2011, Wadih al Asmar, CLDH Secretary General participated in the ICAED International Conference on Enforced Disappearances, held on November 7-9, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **2. Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD), Geneva, Switzerland**

In December 7-10, 2011, Wadih Al Asmar participated in the international conference entitled “*Constructing Memories in the Wake of Crimes against Humanity: Artistic Interventions and the Politics of Memory*”, organized as part of the Research-Based Master Programme at the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD). The Conference brought together a large number of the Politics of Memory and Artistic Practices

(PIMPA) research project participants to build/develop further on the earlier research done during the March 2011 workshop.



## ***Potential mass grave***

On August 2, 2011, CLDH along with the Committee of the parents of kidnapped and missing persons in Lebanon and SOLIDE (Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile) published a press release following the information reported by the media, revealing the existence of a potential mass grave located in the Chouf, and the statement of the authorities declaring that the bones discovered on the site were of animals (goats and dogs).

The representatives of the three above-mentioned organizations, accompanied by Lawyer Nizar Saghie and forensic doctor Dr Hussein Shahrour, went to the location in order to form their opinion on this issue.

The delegation was surprised to be firmly denied access to the site by the guard of the Patriarchate, Mr. Maurice El Khel, by the head of municipality Mr. Karim Sarkis, as well as an official of the military intelligence service who phoned one of the delegation's members to notify him of the ban and asked him to obtain permission from the general prosecutor to be able to visit the site of the potential mass grave. The Internal Security Forces (ISF) also notified the delegation of the ban.

The delegation also gathered the testimonies of several inhabitants of the area, included among them were some family members of disappeared persons, and these persons were not convinced by the official version that was expressed without taking into consideration their opinion. The delegation also talked to direct witnesses of the discovery of the cranes and bones found wrapped in Nylon bags – according to witnesses.

The fact that the authorities prevented the delegation to examine the place reinforces our legitimate doubts that the authorities may have deliberately hidden the existence of a mass grave and our certitude that a follow-up is needed to uncover what really happened.

These are the reasons why CLDH, along with SOLIDE and the Committee of the parents of kidnapped and missing persons in Lebanon wished to inform the public of the manner in which the Lebanese authorities are dealing with the issue of the disappeared in such a non serious fashion, concealing the facts and denying the memory of the victims and the right to truth for their relatives.



## Overview of the Human Rights situation & Capacity building

**Objective**                      **Provide a clear and complete overview of the Human Rights situation in Lebanon, and to be an active partner along with the other Lebanese Human Rights NGOs.**

The reporting period was marked by the launching of the 2011 Human Rights Film Festival, and the publication of three researches<sup>12</sup>, as part of the two-year project “Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights”, funded by the European Union. After two years of joint implementation by COSV, KAFA (enough) Violence and Exploitation, CLDH and PPM (Permanent Peace Movement), the project “Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights” came to an end on March 31, 2011. Nevertheless, the network, partnerships and activities established throughout those two years continue, mainly through the Human Rights multimedia and the physical library hosted in CLDH premises.

### ***Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights***

The project “Multimedia Space for Human Rights” was launched in March 2009 with the financial support of the European Union. The aim of this project was to strengthen mutual cooperation among civil society organizations, in order to better integrate Human Rights issues in national development plans, through various activities, notably:

- the creation of a website and the opening of a documentation centre (1.)
- the publication of researches on Human Rights selected topics (2.)
- the launching of a Human Rights Film Festival (3.)

#### **1. Human Rights Multimedia and Physical Library**

CLDH became the central administrator of the Human Rights website, <http://www.humanrights-lb.com>, and continued to host the physical library in its premises.

The Website has been updated on a regular basis throughout the reporting period, and CLDH welcomed an uprising number of visitors to the Human Rights Library.



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<sup>12</sup> See “Arbitrary detention and torture: the bitter reality of Lebanon” p.4; “The state of freedom of association in Lebanon: what prospects for the future?” p. 13 ; “Asylum seekers and Refugees in detention: languishing in injustice” p. 20



## **2. Research - "The state of freedom of association in Lebanon: what prospects for the future?"**

On January 25, 2011 the report entitled "*The state of freedom of association in Lebanon: what prospects for the future?*" was launched.

The report aimed at presenting a summary of the state of freedom of association in Lebanon from a human rights perspective with a special focus on disadvantaged groups or associations. It provides a descriptive guide concerning the right of freedom of association, obstacles in the exercise of this right and also made clear recommendations on how these obstacles could be removed.

Among its findings the report illustrates how freedom of association has improved in Lebanon in the last few years but it highlights that some categories of the population or associations are still not equally benefitting from this right. The report states that the imposed "de facto" authorisation system leads often to arbitrariness and underlines the need to adapt the legislative and administrative framework to fully consolidate the fundamental right to freedom of association.

## **3. Human Rights Film Festival**

The [2011 Human Rights Film Festival](#), organised under the Patronage of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, was launched on January 27, 2011, at Cinema Metropolis Empire Sofil.

The Festival presented a series of film screenings focusing on Human Rights abuses in relation with women's rights, rights of refugees, migrant workers and discrimination, detainees' rights and enforced disappearance.

The four-day program included photo exhibitions, music, theatrical performances, lectures and panel discussions.

The Film Festival's idea came from the need to give voice to different NGOs (working on Human Rights) and independent filmmakers committed in the same field, to show Human Rights violations in Lebanon through their camera.

The goal of the festival, which was to reach a huge audience and facilitate discussion on Human Rights in Lebanon was successfully achieved, when the screenings on all the four days registered full houses throughout.



# THE 2011 HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

مهرجان أفلام حقوق الإنسان

Cinema Rotunda Empire Hall, 27 - 30 January 2011, Starting at 8pm, Free entrance, Tel: 01/2480023

سينما روتوندا إمبرا هال، 27 - 30 كانون الثاني 2011، تبدأ الساعة 8 مساءً، مجاناً، هاتف: 01/2480023

[www.humanrightsfilmfestival.com](http://www.humanrightsfilmfestival.com)





## ***E-media tools to provide a complete Human Rights overview***

CLDH is convinced that online communications have become an essential and unavoidable tool to promote, inform, and raise awareness on Human Rights. Therefore, CLDH continues to develop its social-media presence and strives to provide clear, consistent and compelling information on the Human Rights situation in Lebanon through blogs, Twitter, and Facebook. To this end, starting from May 2011, a member of CLDH staff began to attend a monthly workshop entitled “*E-media: tools, technology & training*”.

### **1. Blog “CLDH Human Rights Press Review”**

During the reporting period, CLDH continued to compile and disseminate a daily press review, gathering all articles on Human Rights issues in the Lebanese press (English, Arabic and French articles), available on a blog “[CLDH Human Rights Press Review](#)”. The number of users from several countries continues to steadily rise. As on December 31, 2011, the blog had registered **45,939 viewers** from 10 different countries.

### **2. Blog “Special Tribunal for Lebanon – Monitor”**

CLDH continued to update the Blog “Special Tribunal for Lebanon Monitor”. This blog aims at guaranteeing readers with access to all information related to the STL: press review in English, French and Arabic; UN documents, etc... As on December 31, 2011, thousands of articles related to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon published online in the Lebanese press were posted on the Blog.

### **3. Twitter and Facebook**



CLDH maintains and updates content for its Twitter account and Facebook group. As on December 31, 2011, CLDH [Facebook Group](#) had over 1530 members.

## ***Press Release***

- On February 1, 2011, CLDH endorsed and supported the Urgent Appeal “*International Community must ensure rights of Egyptians are upheld*”, in which civil society organizations from across the world strongly urged all governments, as well as regional and international organizations, to clearly and unequivocally denounce the violent crackdown against the public protests and demanded for democratic reform and government accountability that occurred across Egypt.

## ***Workshops, Seminars***

- On February 16-17, 2011, CLDH participated in a Workshop, organized by the Danish Advisory Group, targeting Officers of the Common Border Force in charge of northern and eastern borders control in Lebanon. Wadih Al Asmar presented the Human Rights Session of the workshop, which included an introduction on the main international Human Rights treaties and their applicability to migration control, as well as role-playing and interactive sessions.
- Two members of CLDH staff participated in the “*NGO Seminar on International Justice*”, on March 16-18 2011, at The Hague, Netherlands. The seminar included visits and lectures at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (including attendance at the Karadzic case), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the Coalition of the International Criminal Court, and the International Criminal Court. This three-day event explored international justice and the challenges that Human Rights activists face in this field. This seminar was organized by Justice without Frontiers, in cooperation with the Asser Institute, the ICC, the ICTY, the Outreach office of the STL and the ICC. <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Iloubnan, [STL hosts representatives of Lebanese NGOs](#), March 18, 2011

## ***NGO fairs***



### **1. Danish Cultural Week**

On June 12, 2011, on the occasion of the Danish Cultural Week 2011, CLDH members were thrilled to participate in the Danish NGO-fair, at Sanayeh garden, to present our activities, projects and goals.



### **2. Lebanese American University**

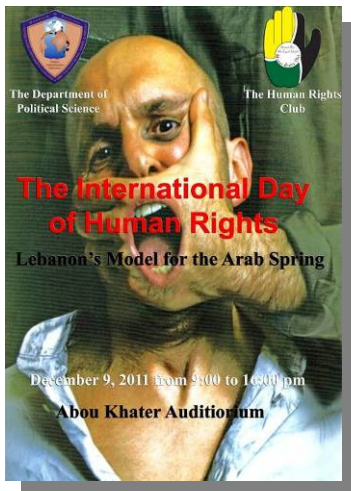
On April 13, 2011, CLDH participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lebanese American University NGO Fair that took place at the Beirut Campus. The motto of this year's NGO fair was "*Civic Actions Speak Louder than Words*". This fair provided an occasion to sensitize students about CLDH work, and the importance of volunteerism.

## ***Participation to events***

### **1. Notre Dame University, International Day of Human Rights**

On December 9, 2011, on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, CLDH was thrilled to be among the 10 selected leading NGOs to participate in the event “*Lebanon’s Model for the Arab Spring*” organized by Notre Dame University Department of Political Science and Human Rights Club.

CLDH held a stand in the student area to introduce the organization programs, distribute flyers and communicate with students.



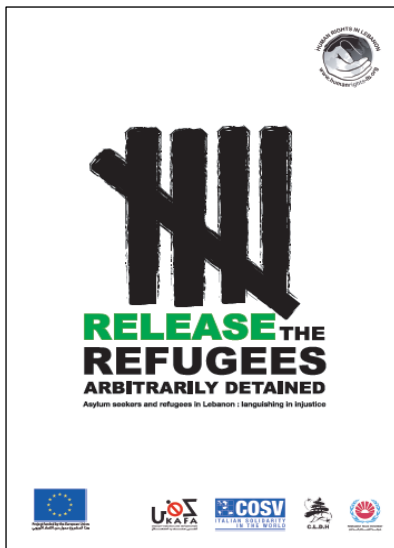
### **2. Beirut Arab University, Human Rights Day 2011**

On December 12, 2011, CLDH team attended the commemoration of the “Human Rights Day 2011” organized by the Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Middle East under the theme: “*Social Media and Human Rights*”.



# Migrant Workers, Asylum Seekers and Refugees

**Objective**                      **Raising awareness of the Lebanese society and authorities about the rights of migrants and refugees, strengthening and promoting the legal and social protection of migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees.**



## ***Report “Asylum seekers and Refugees in detention: languishing in injustice”***

The report “[\*Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Lebanon: Languishing in Injustice\*](#)” describes the general legal framework surrounding the issue of asylum seekers and refugees in Lebanon from a Human Rights perspective while shedding light on the alleged violations of their rights and proposing clear recommendations for the improvement of their situation. The report documents and describes:

- the major challenges that confront the refugees and asylum seekers in Lebanon, mainly because of the non-conformity of the Lebanese laws with Lebanon’s international commitments
- the violations and their negative impact on the refugees’ situation,
- recommendations to the relevant actors.

CLDH published this report on March 31, 2011. This study is part of the “Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights” project funded by the European Union.

## ***Teach In – Montana International College***

In October 2011, upon the request of Montana’s teachers, CLDH held a debate with the Secondary pupils of Montana International College in Deek el Mehdi on the rights of migrant workers.





The session was a great opportunity to discuss with the children about the universality of Human rights and more particularly about the rights of the domestic workers, usually residing with them in their homes.

### ***Solidarity with Sudanese refugees***

A CLDH representative participated in the demonstration organized by the Sudanese community, in front of the UNHCR building on October 28, 2011.

After two hours of protest in front of the UNHCR building, 4 members of the Sudanese community, a Nasawiya representative, and CLDH representatives were allowed inside the building to hold a meeting with UNHCR representatives. A list of demands was presented to UNHCR by the Sudanese community.

