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

2010 ACTIVITIES REPORT

*Tirelessly denouncing human rights
violations, towards promoting a
better Lebanon*

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CLDH TEAM

The year 2010 was the year of building on our strengths, and renewing our commitment to our avowed objectives of fighting arbitrary detention and torture, impunity, giving support to the families of disappeared persons, fighting discrimination, monitoring the Human Rights situation in Lebanon and rehabilitating victims of torture.

CLDH staff underwent some changes in 2010.

Camille Joseph who had been part of the team as a Program Manager and Researcher since March 2009 finished her assignment at CLDH in December 2010.

Pamela Cortbawi joined our team in June 2010, as a consultant - researcher for the conduct of a research and publication of a report presenting an overview of the massacres, major attacks and other gross violations perpetrated during the Lebanese war between 1975 and 1990.

Lawyer Elie Bitar assisted CLDH during the first half of 2010 in the implementation of the Truth and Justice National Reconciliation Program.

As far as the CLDH project entitled “Centre Nassim for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture” is concerned, **Jeffrey Boutros** took over as physiotherapist in place of Salim El Helwe in August 2010; **Ghassan Assaf** took over as psychologist in place of Elie Abou Chacra and Dima Saade in May 2010 ; **Charles Yacoub** was appointed as psychiatrist in place of Jihane Rohayem in May 2010.

CLDH is extremely grateful to the **volunteers** who offered their assistance to CLDH in 2010 and who continue to do so.

Joseph Hitti continued to assist CLDH in translation works on a voluntary basis.

Lawyer Hala Waked voluntarily assisted CLDH team on all issues related to the Lebanese law provisions and their implementation.

Charbel Jreij worked on CLDH website on a voluntary basis.

Samar El Deek supported CLDH in creating designs for several campaigns and providing professional photography.

Lama Karame assisted CLDH in a number of translations from Arabic to English.

Pierre Obeid provided assistance as a volunteer graphic designer.

Vanessa Van Vliet, Arz Stephan and Rebecca Saade assisted CLDH team in a number of activities.

“I worked with the Lebanese Center for human rights on campaigns related to the missing people during the civil war and the arbitrarily detained. I believe that art can create a social change, and as designers we have a responsibility to do that.”

Samar Deek, Graphic Designer.

Every year, **interns** from different countries join CLDH team.

In 2010, CLDH had the pleasure to welcome **Erik Belfrage** from Sweden and **Killian le Tallec** from France who joined CLDH team for a summer internship during which they successfully assisted in all the organization's activities.

Francesca Fabbri from Italy assisted CLDH in the publication of the report about the Lebanese war and contributed to various activities of the organization.

“My internship at CLDH during the summer of 2010 was a fruitful and stimulating experience despite its brevity.

My tasks were diverse, ranging from translation and press review work to pure research and text drafting; mirroring my degree of Arabic and International Relations in an appropriate way. The working environment at CLDH was inspiring because of the staff's professionalism combined with a genuine friendliness and a general down-to-earth-sentiment at the office. Additionally, as a student used to delving deep into various theoretical issues in some remote library, it was indeed very refreshing to be able to work in the midst of things; on the frontline of empirical information gathering and in the place that is the subject matter of your research. Finally, the multi-faceted city of Beirut is a place that offers many spare time opportunities and, as such, not only made my stay memorable in all aspects but also made me want to come back. My main intent with this internship was to learn more about the Human Rights regime and how work is carried out on a day-to-day basis in an NGO in an Arab country, as well as to use and improve my language skills. This I feel I have clearly achieved, dominantly thanks to the guidance and mentorship of the staff at CLDH. I recommend anyone with similar interests to intern at this small but well-established and effective NGO, working alongside some extremely knowledgeable and experienced professionals in the field of Human Rights.”

Erik Belfrage



DONORS

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

- **AEDH** (Act Together for Human Rights) provided CLDH with funds to assist individually victims of arbitrary detention.
- **ACAT France** (Action by Christians against Torture) also funded CLDH activities directed towards victims of torture and arbitrary detention.
- The **British Embassy in Beirut** supported the project entitled “Truth and Justice National Reconciliation Program”.
- The **Danish Ministry of foreign affairs** granted CLDH a funding for the years 2010 – 2012.
- The **Embassy of the Netherlands in Beirut** funded the project Centre Nassim over three years, until June 2010.
- The **European Union** pursued 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 and CLDH.
- The **Foundation for the Future**, based in Jordan supported the Truth and Justice National Reconciliation Program.
- **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.

ARBITRARY DETENTION & TORTURE

Contribute effectively towards reducing the practice of arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon

Although Lebanon is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Convention Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments, the protection guaranteed to its population against arbitrary detention and torture is severely and permanently violated.

Statistics collected by CLDH in 2009 and 2010 show that approximately 70% of the Lebanese prison population is detained arbitrarily. It includes two thirds of the inmates in prolonged pretrial detention with 13% being foreigners who have already served their sentence and are awaiting repatriation or release.

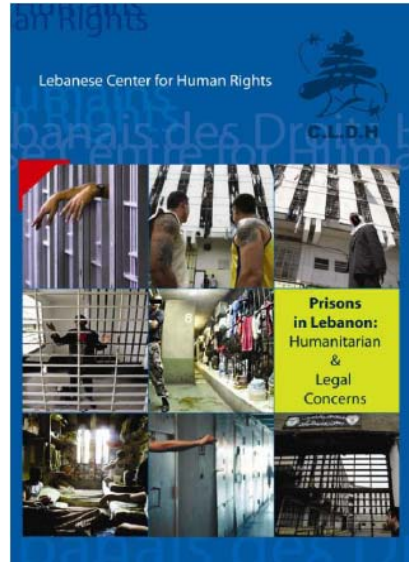
As far as the issue of torture is concerned, statistics show that 60% of the persons arrested in 2009 and 2010 complain of having been subjected to torture. CLDH actively worked in 2010 to define the patterns of the practice of torture in Lebanon, while in custody or in prisons.

Documentation

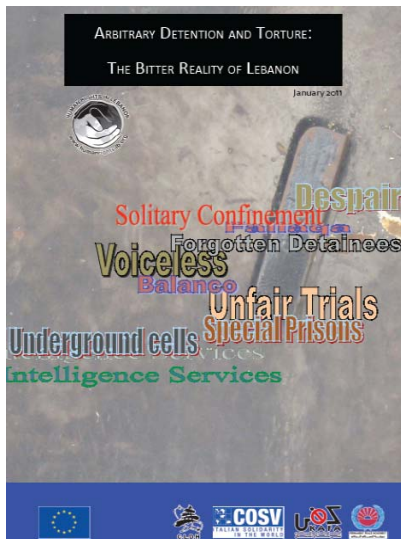
Report “Prisons in Lebanon: Humanitarian and Legal concerns”.

CLDH report assessed the overall conditions in Lebanese prisons and the legal situation of incarcerated persons, with a specific focus on the practice of arbitrary detention and torture during interrogations, Human Rights violations committed by the General Security or by the army intelligence services in the Ministry of Defense.

The draft report was presented before publication to Major General Ashraf Rifi, head of the Internal Security Forces on February 11. A press conference was organized on February 23 at CLDH premises. The report was widely distributed to officials, NGOs and was handed over personally to the Minister of State, Mona Afeich on March 1.



Report “Arbitrary detention and torture: the bitter reality of Lebanon”

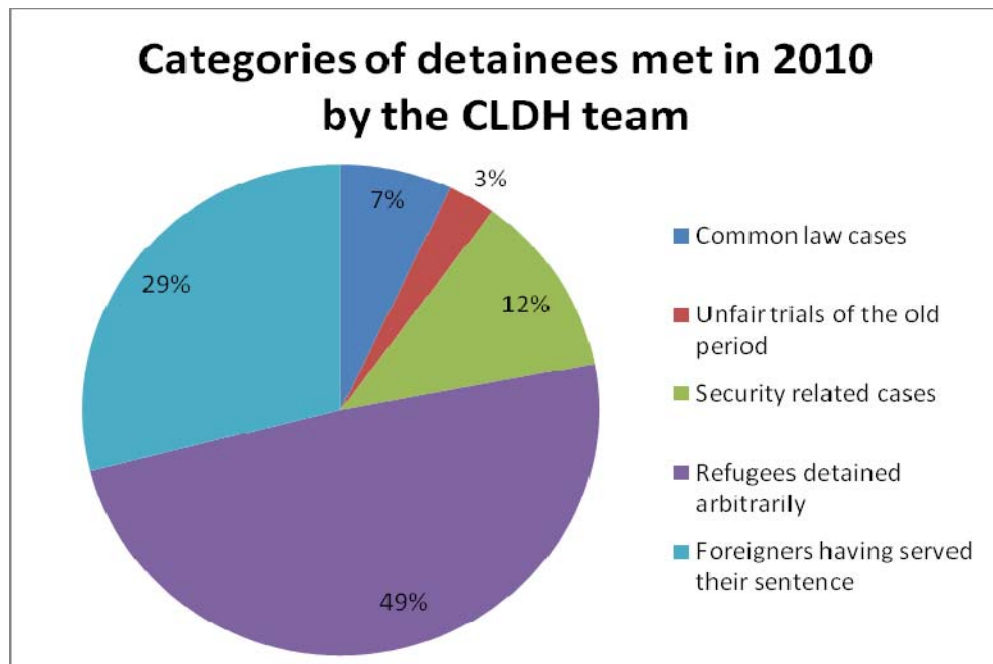


As part of the project “*Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights*”, funded by the European Union, an in-depth research into the circumstances and patterns of the use of torture and practice of arbitrary detention was conducted from March 2009 to December 2010, which included statistics on arbitrary detention, torture, their causes and consequences as also an evaluation of the practice of arbitrary detention on the basis of a systematic study of the entire prison population of Lebanon that was conducted by the CLDH team between March and September 2009.

Cases follow up

In 2010, CLDH team visited prisons on a regular basis, and met with over 70 victims of arbitrary detention and/or torture, to document and follow up their cases in accordance with their demands and specific needs, which included:

- Submissions to the United Nations Special Procedures (Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Special Rapporteur on Torture).
- Legal aid,
- In-depth study of the judicial file,
- Request for presidential pardon, etc.
- Letters to the authorities
- Press releases and reports



In 2010, 9 new individual cases of torture were submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and 3 new cases to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

More than half of the inmates followed by CLDH team in 2010 were released.

AEDH (Act Together for Human Rights) funded a total of 114 follow up legal actions to assist 33 victims of arbitrary detention/torture, in detention, 17 of whom were released.

Workshops, Roundtable, Training Courses

- **Training course on UN and EU Protection mechanisms and Organizing Advocacy Campaigns**, organized by PHRO (Palestinian Human Rights Organization). On February 9, CLDH presented its work on torture prevention.
- **Visit of the Sub-committee for the Prevention of Torture, at ESCWA**
On May 25, CLDH presented its findings on the practice of torture in Lebanon (victims, places, executioners, situations leading to torture, etc) to the SPT representatives who then conducted a confidential fact-finding mission in the Lebanese places of deprivation of liberty.
- **“Women against Torture”, Workshop discussion of women victims of torture**
In preparation for June 26, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, CLDH hosted on June 23, a panel discussion with women who are victims of torture. This workshop discussion highlighted the specificity of both physical and psychological torture inflicted on women who are particularly vulnerable victims. Furthermore, the indirect consequences of torture on the victims' entourage were also discussed.
- **“Lebanese prisons: Reality and Vision”,** organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and the Italian Embassy in Lebanon –Development Cooperation Office, on September 27. CLDH facilitated the legal working group - one of the five thematic working groups of this workshop.
- **“National Preventive Mechanisms for the prevention of torture toward a new strategy for the follow-up”,** organized by Restart Center for rehabilitation of victims of violence and torture, on November 25. CLDH attended the workshop that presented an occasion for further discussion on the National Human Rights Institution draft law process, the existing International Human Rights Mechanisms, as well as ISF’s new mechanisms for the prevention of torture.
- **Roundtable - “2000/2010: Lebanon has signed and ratified the Convention against torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention... but?”**
On June 26, CLDH co-organized this debate along with Al Karama for Human Rights, the Lebanese Association for Education and Trainings (ALEF) and Restart Center for Torture Victims.

Demonstrations, events and press releases against arbitrary detention and torture



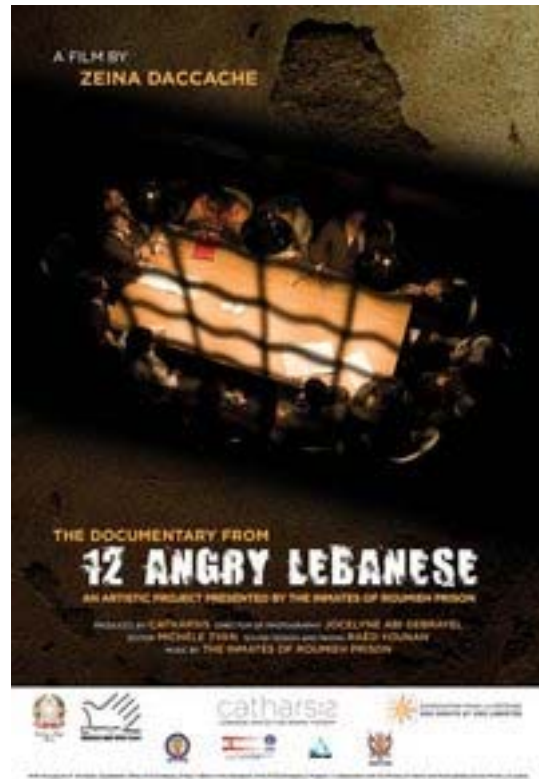
“Human Chain”, on the occasion of the International day in support of victims of torture

CLDH in collaboration with other NGOs, organized a Human Chain in support of Torture Victims in front of the Parliament building (Downtown) on June 25, to “ pay its respects to those who have endured the unimaginable ” and raise public awareness on these Human Rights abuses.

Screening of the Documentary “12 Angry Lebanese”, by Zeina Daccache

On September 14, CLDH organized a fundraising event, by screening the documentary “12 Angry Lebanese”, released theatrically for the first time in Lebanon at Metropolis Empire Sofil.

A theatre director, specializing in working with disadvantaged and traumatized people, Zeina Daccache struggled to set up Lebanon's first prison-based drama project in the country's notorious Roumieh Prison. For 15 months, 45 inmates, found themselves working together to present the “12 Angry Lebanese”. In the film, the drama therapy sessions, the interviews with the inmates, and the interaction with both director and audience, convey a message of hope, forgiveness and change.



Press Releases

- Open letter, [Local and international human rights organizations call on the Minister of Justice for a National Preventive Mechanism to prevent torture](#), July 23, 2010. CLDH co-signed an open letter with Restart Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Frontiers Ruwad Association, ALEF and Alkarama Foundation, to urge the Minister of Justice to take urgent action to approve the draft law for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism to prevent torture, in accordance with the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).
- Joint Press Release, CLDH, EMHRN, FIDH, ACAT-France, AEDH, [Faysal Moqalled interrogated and mistreated again in the Ministry of Defense Detention Center](#), November 10, 2010
- Press Release, [CLDH calls for the immediate release of retired General Fayez Karam who is arbitrarily detained in a special prison](#), September 23, 2010
- Joint Press Release, CLDH, SOLIDE, [Liban : Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Hamid Omar, détenu depuis 6 ans sans jugement](#), July 31, 2010

MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Raise awareness of the Lebanese society and authorities about the rights of migrants and refugees, and strengthen and promote the legal and social protection of migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees.

In 2010, CLDH focused a great deal on the issue of foreigners' rights.

Foreigners are more often than not, victims of discrimination, of arbitrary detention, of torture, and, in the case of asylum seekers and refugees, of forced deportation to their country of origin.

This crucial topic overlaps with a number of objectives and activities of CLDH.

As far as the issues of arbitrary detention and torture are concerned, while the prison population as a whole has to be considered as vulnerable (See Section Arbitrary Detention and Torture), foreigners are often left by the wayside and suffer the most severe violations of their rights.

The issue of discrimination was tackled in a spirit of networking with other NGOs, one of CLDH general objectives that encompassed a large number of activities in 2010 (See Section Monitoring).

Cases follow up

CLDH followed up on a number of refugees and asylum seekers in detention (Iraqis, Pakistanis, Indian, Jordanian, and Syrian).

CLDH seized the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the issue of ‘Systematic Arbitrary Detention of Foreigners in Lebanon’ in a communication dated June 1, 2010.

CLDH followed up the case of Sunny Kumar, a young Indian who was held in Roumieh prison for illegal entry in Lebanon. Sunny Kumar was gravely injured with possible danger of loss of life, after a scooter accident and had undergone several operations at the hospital. When CLDH team visited him in prison, his bones were getting infected, he could not walk and was slowly losing complete mobility in his legs, he was neither eating nor drinking, was throwing up continuously and seemed extremely dehydrated. CLDH took urgent action to transfer Sunny Kumar immediately to hospital, and took all necessary measures for his return to his home country. Sunny Kumar returned safely to India on September 29, 2010.

Research and publications

In-depth research

An innovative research on the issue of asylum seekers and refugees in detention is underway since February 2010, as an activity under ‘Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights’ project. The report which shall include practical recommendations to the authorities in this regard is expected to be published by March 2011.

Press releases

- Joint [*Letter to Lebanese government voicing concern over migrant and refugee arbitrary detentions, co-signed by 14 NGOs*](#), February 24, 2010.
- Press Release, [*Attempt to forcibly deport a refugee*](#), March 8, 2010
- Joint Press Release, [*Calling for investigation into seizure of Human Rights Lawyer's Passport*](#) (along with 16 other organizations), March 8, 2010.
- Press Release, *Acts of desperation and pleas for help in respect of arbitrarily detained refugees*, March 22, 2010
- Press Release, *The Situation is deteriorating in the General Security Retention Center! Call for a Solidarity Sit-In!*, March 24, 2010
- Press Release, *In a basement opposite the Palace of Justice, the General Security tortures with impunity*, April 26, 2010
- Joint Letter to the UNHCR High Commissioner, on the occasion of his visit to Beirut, June 12, 2010
CLDH joined hands with several other organizations (Frontiers Ruwad Association, Lebanon Asylum Access, Egyptian Foundation for Refugees Rights, International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), National Human Rights Society of Malaysia, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Thailand, Amel Association, Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Migreurop, Alkarama Foundation) to urge the High Commissioner to advocate for long term and sustainable policy for refugee protection in Lebanon.
- Press Release, CLDH, [*Allegations of torture of a refugee at the airport - The Ministry of Interior and the UNHCR unable to protect refugees against the scandalous practices of the General Security*](#), November 11, 2010
- Press Release, CLDH, [*Urgent appeal: a young Indian detained in Roumieh prison at risk of death*](#), July 15, 2010

Protests, petitions and lobbying demanding the foreigners' rights

“General Mobilization to close down the General Security Detention Center”.

On February 28, 2010, CLDH called on Human Rights defenders and all citizens to express their indignation in front of the General Security Detention Center to demand:

- The immediate release of all persons arbitrarily detained.
- The closing down of the retention center.
- The review of the General Security's prerogatives

Approximately 60 persons participated in the mobilization and the event was also widely covered by the media.



“Solidarity Sit in with the Refugees arbitrarily detained”.

Following alarming reports regarding some refugees detained at the General Security detention center that were allegedly on hunger strike and were also engaged in causing grievous hurt to their bodies, CLDH organized in March 25, a solidarity sit-in in front of the detention center. During this sit-in, people were given the opportunity to write messages of support to the detainees of the detention center.

Online petition “Support the refugees detained arbitrarily in Lebanon”.

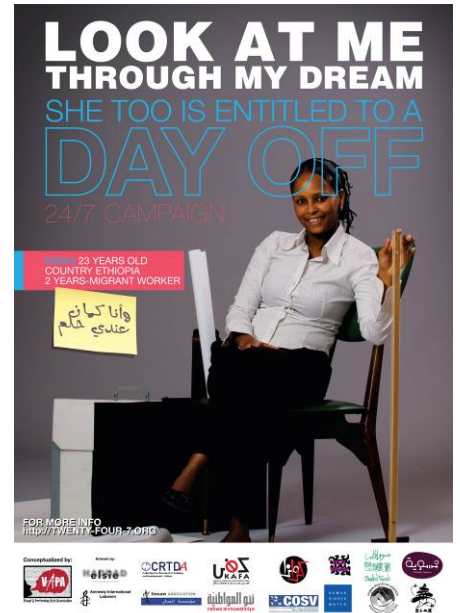
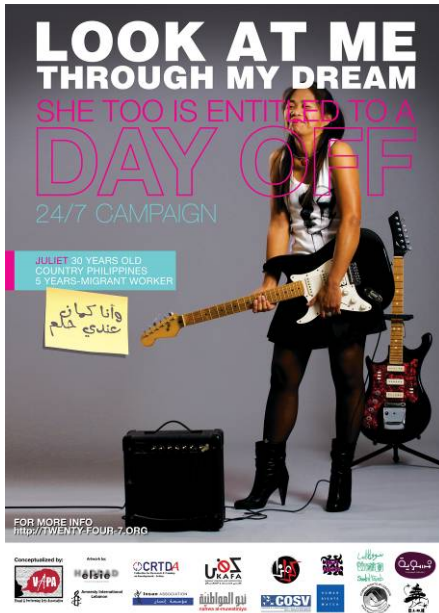
This [online petition](#) was launched in February 2010. It reiterates that the detention of refugees, in inhumane conditions (underground) constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights, and must end immediately. Through this petition, the Lebanese authorities were urged to:

- Release immediately all refugees detained arbitrarily.
- Amend the 1962 Law Regulating the Entry and Stay of Foreigners in Lebanon and their Exit from the Country so as to prohibit all arrest and/or detention of refugees and asylum seekers for the only offense of illegal entry and/or stay
- Review the General Security's prerogatives.



24/7 Campaign

In support of migrant workers, CLDH along with several NGOs and individual activists celebrated Labor Day in Lebanon by demanding migrant workers' right to good working conditions, starting with the minimal right of at least one day off a week. The Campaign included a Twitter and blogging campaign, African Dance Party, Asian and African Food Festival, Capoeira performance, Solidarity march, and a free concert.



Anti-Racism Movement demonstration

On October 7, CLDH team joined the protest against racism and arbitrary detention, organized by the Anti-Racism Movement, as part of the support campaign for Dr. Abdel Meneem Ibrahim who stayed on hunger strike to demand among other things, the release of his compatriots detained arbitrarily in Lebanese prisons.

Lobbying with stakeholders

- **Meeting with officials of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, February 22, 2010**
CLDH expressed to the Embassy officials its concerns over the pressures exerted by the Embassy on Iraqi refugees in Lebanon to return to Iraq. This meeting contributed to a decision by the Embassy to freeze the issuance of plane tickets by the Iraqi Embassy to the Lebanese General Security, as the same was being regularly done and was facilitating the illegal deportation of refugees to Iraq.
- **Meeting with Minister of Interior Ziad Baroud, March 12, 2010.**
CLDH along with Frontiers and Human Rights Watch organized a meeting with the Minister of Interior to discuss and find sustainable solutions to the issue of refugees and asylum seekers in detention.
- **Meeting with the First Lady, Ms. Wafa Sleiman, March 15, 2010**
The conclusions of the prisons' report with a particular focus on the situation in the underground detention center of the General Security as well as the issue of refugees were presented to the First Lady.
- **Several meetings were held with representatives of the UNHCR in Lebanon (interim director and protection officers)**
- **Roundtable Meeting with the UNHCR Director for Middle-East and North Africa, Mr. Radhouane Nouicer, in May 2010**
CLDH participated in this roundtable meeting to have a discussion on recent developments in Lebanon, share views and express concerns on current trends with regards to the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Lebanon.
- **Participation in an NGOs workshop on irregular migrations, June 14 and 15, 2010**
CLDH participated in the workshop organized by IOM (International Office of Migrations) on legal and practical aspects of migration in Lebanon.

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

Centre Nassim which opened its doors in late 2007, continued throughout 2010 to provide multi-disciplinary assistance and support to victims of torture. In 2010, **156 beneficiaries** availed of Centre Nassim multidisciplinary services.

Centre Nassim Team

Some of our staff had to leave Centre Nassim for various personal reasons, and the Centre was faced with the challenge of finding suitable replacements - persons who not only had the skills, but also the right attitudinal orientation to carry on the numerous activities. Centre Nassim was successful in finding suitable replacements and also provided induction training to the new staff to enable them to discharge their responsibilities well.

Centre Nassim staff members include a Physiotherapist, a Psychologist, a Psychiatrist, a General Practitioner, a Reception Assistant, an Employment Advisor, a Social Assistant, a Lawyer, and an Accountant.

Supervision and Trainings

Ongoing psychological supervision of staff members

Counselors working with torture and trauma survivors are also highly vulnerable to vicarious traumatization and burnout. Therefore, Centre Nassim organized during the year 2010 several group counseling sessions of the staff (9 sessions in 2010) with psychoanalysts. Those sessions were highly beneficial since they provided an opportunity to the members of Nassim to learn more about how they are perceived by others, experience a sense of acceptance and belonging, hear and share ideas which enhanced their ability to make decisions and solve problems they face, learn to express in a constructive manner their feelings and ideas and lastly gain encouragement by observing the successes of others.

Conflict Resolution through Theatre

The aim of this training program on Conflict Resolution through theatre was to provide Centre Nassim staff members with cultural references and tools to communicate and exchange emotions, thoughts and expressions, to establish the productive relations between each other, and with the beneficiaries by knowing "themselves", knowing the "Other", to respect the differences between them, to know how to act without violence in managing their conflicts, and to achieve their common goal by working in harmony. This training was highly interactive, using participatory learning techniques to disseminate and transmit knowledge and skills. The training components were tailored according to the participants' knowledge and previous experience in the topic of interest. The topic of this training was: Knowledge, skills and tools that may be needed to achieve conflict resolution.

Team building Activities

The purpose of this activity was to enable participants to learn more about teamwork and communication skills, importance of encouragement and synergy. A hiking expedition to reiterate these values in an outdoor setting was also organized.



Group discussion

Each year the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is marked on December 10. In 2010, on this special occasion, an in-house group discussion on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and training by in-house lawyer on the importance of the Declaration and its link to the prevention of torture was organized.

Centre Nassim Beneficiaries

The following tables (*Figures 1 and 2*) show the nationality and gender profile of Centre Nassim beneficiaries in 2010.

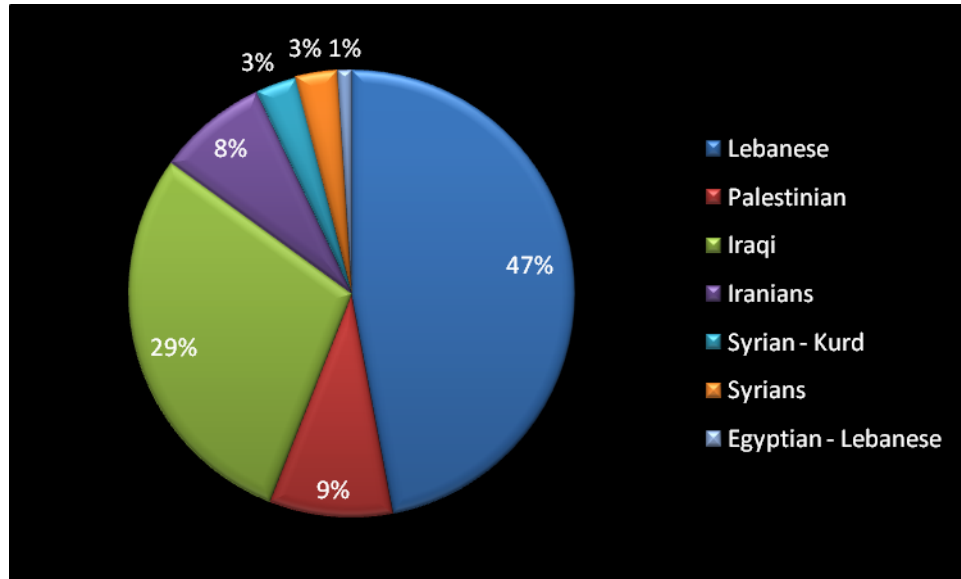


Figure 1 - Centre Nassim Beneficiaries profile - Nationality

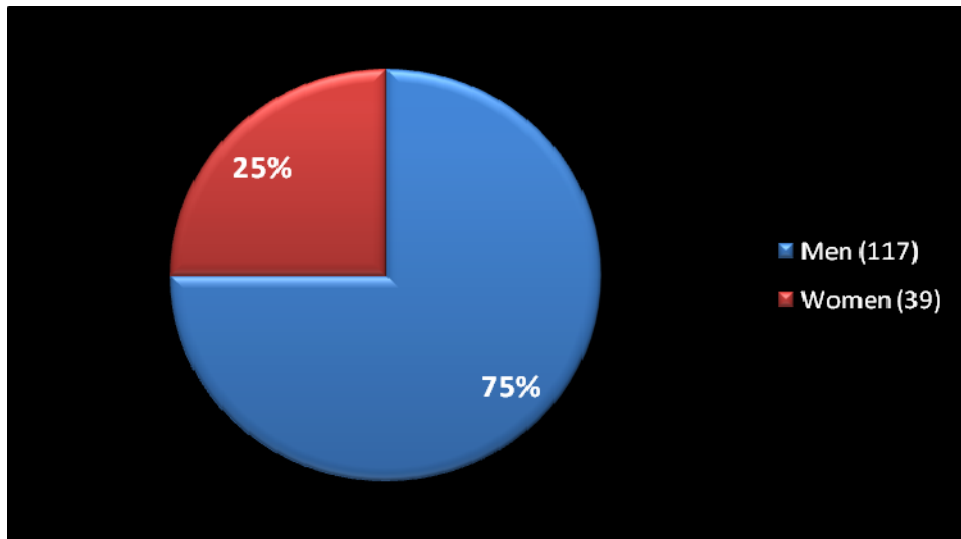


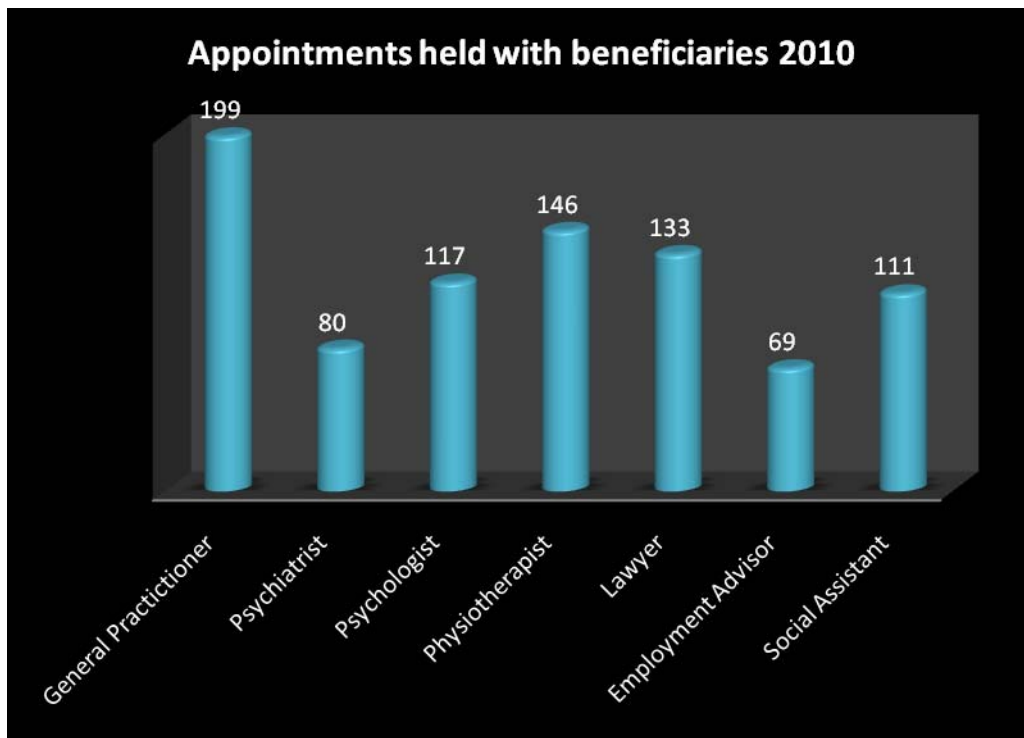
Figure 2 – Centre Nassim Beneficiaries profile – Gender

Multidisciplinary Assistance 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, Nassim staff members (from the field of psychology, psychiatry, general medicine, physiotherapy, legal counseling, social work and professional reintegration) continued to receive and assist a steady influx of beneficiaries.

The following table (*Figure 3*) shows break up of number of appointments that our staff had with the beneficiaries during 2010.

Figure 3-Number of Appointments 2010



Activities for beneficiaries

Within the framework of the ‘Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights’ project, 15 beneficiaries of Centre Nassim participated in a 9-day workshop, which included a 4-day discussion on the following topics:

- October 20 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- October 27 - The definition of torture and the reality of the practice
- November, 3 - Protection against torture and implementation
- November 10 - Rehabilitation, rights and needs of the victims of torture

The workshop included 5 days of filming with the participants, which led to the production of a 5:13 min clip “*Waiting for Justice*”, a public speech hip-hop video clip on detainees’ rights¹.



Figure 4 - “*Waiting for justice*” by Maguy, Pierre, Marie, Vahé, Leila, Nader, Itidal, Majida, Leila, Youssef, Adel, Saad, Naem, trainer Maher Shehadeh.

¹ [*Waiting for Justice*](#), by Maguy, Pierre, Marie, Vahé, Leila, Nader, Itidal, Majida, Leila, Youssef, Adel, Saad, Naem, trainer Maher Shehadeh

Support the families of disappeared and NGOs working on this issue & Contribute effectively to the establishment of truth, justice and national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Resolving the question of enforced disappearance is not only quintessential but also a necessary first step towards implementing a more general national reconciliation and justice process. With an estimated 17,000 missing, this problem affects the Lebanese society at large and the wounds of this scourge are still not healed from the past.

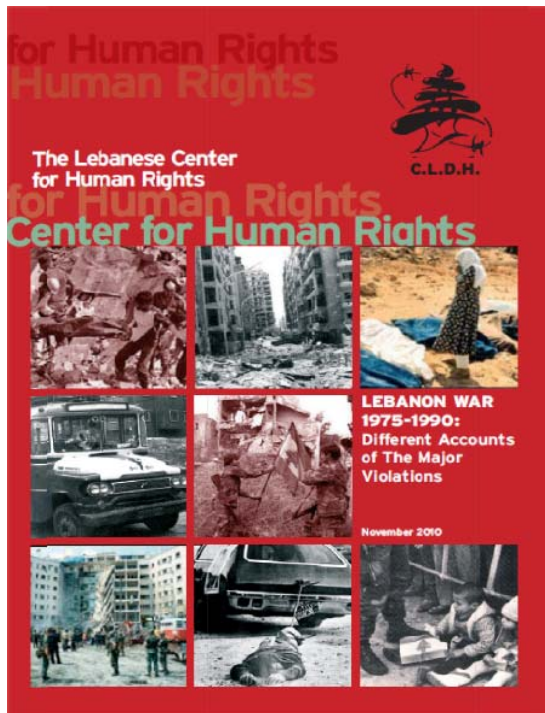
Since 1996, CLDH works closely with the families of the missing, who are suffering from the psychological torture of not knowing what happened to their loved ones and who are therefore not being able to properly mourn their relatives if indeed they have been killed as a result of enforced disappearance. At the very least, the authorities should respect their right to Truth and help shed light on the fate of all missing persons in Lebanon in order to help resolve this issue and start a real national reconciliation process. However, the authorities are still reluctant to address this issue in a concrete way that will allow families reparation and Justice. In fact, the authorities have generally only taken steps to close, but not to resolve – the issue of the missing.

In this challenging context, it is crucial for civil society to take a leading role in advocating the launch of a process of national reconciliation and advancing the cause of the victims of enforced disappearance. Although the launching of a national reconciliation process has not yet taken place, it is CLDH's belief that the building blocks of a peaceful and stable future must be built today. Although politically, at present, the Lebanese authorities are not ready to launch a national commission on the missing, it is our firm belief that the groundwork should be done today to facilitate the creation of the commission, which we hope will take place in the near future.

CLDH presence in this field and its work towards the establishment of truth and justice for the victims of enforced disappearance remains as imperative as ever. In 2010, CLDH implemented with the generous support of the British Embassy in Lebanon, and the Foundation for the Future the “**Truth and Justice National Reconciliation Program in Lebanon**”, from November 2009 till November 2010. This program aimed to help launch a process of national reconciliation and advance the cause of victims of enforced disappearance through legal, lobbying, advocacy and awareness-raising actions. Our activities included a research, several public conferences, meetings with stakeholders, as well as press releases.

Documentation

Research: “Lebanon War 1975-1990: Different Accounts of the Major Violations”



This report presents an overview of the massacres, major attacks and other gross violations perpetrated during the Lebanese civil war between 1975 and 1990.

The aim of the report is to help provide a unified history of the war by presenting the existing different versions or accounts of gross Human Rights violations perpetrated during the war according to the various political/militia groups involved and identifying any means to obtain a more unified history of the conflict.

The report is available in 3 languages (Arabic, French and English).

This project was conducted with the generous support of the Foundation for the Future and the British Embassy in Beirut.

Conferences

"Shedding Light on Cases of Enforced Disappearance in Cyprus: A Roadmap for Lebanon?"

CLDH conducted in February 2010 a Conference entitled "Shedding Light on Cases of Enforced Disappearance in Cyprus: A Roadmap for Lebanon?" at St-Joseph University, Beirut. The conference was the first of its kind to be organized in a University in Lebanon and featured guest speaker Christophe Girod (United Nations Representative of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus) as well as a panel of local experts. Over 70 persons from civil society attended the conference. This conference was organized with the generous support of the British Embassy in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) cordially invites you to the conference:

"Shedding Light on Cases of Enforced Disappearance in Cyprus: A Roadmap for Lebanon ?"

Monday, February 1st from 6PM to 9PM at St-Joseph University
Pierre Y. Aboukhatir Auditorium

With the support of the British Embassy in Beirut

With the participation of

~ Moderator ~
Doha Chams, Al Akhbar

~ Panelists ~
Christophe Girod, Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (United Nations)
Ghassan Moukheiber, Parliamentary Human Rights Committee
Wadih AL-Asmar, CLDH
Wadad Halwani, Committee of Parents of Kidnapped or Missing Persons in Lebanon
Lynn Maalouf, International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
Ghazi Aad, SOLIDE (Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile)

Contact
Thank you for confirming your attendance before January 29 at the following email address: info@cldh.org or at 01 24 00 23.

Address
St-Joseph University
Pierre Y. Aboukhatir Auditorium
Social Sciences Campus, Damour Street

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"The International Convention to protect all persons from enforced disappearance"

CLDH conducted in May 2010 a Conference on the International Convention to Protect All Persons from Enforced Disappearance at La Sagesse Law School, Beirut.

The Conference's guest speaker Olivier de Frouville spoke about the role of the Convention to law students and members of civil society. Over 70 students and civil society members participated.

This conference was organized with the generous support of the British Embassy in Lebanon.

“Truth and Reconciliation: what methods to adopt after a conflict? Putting in Perspective Lebanon’s options”



On November 4, CLDH organized a conference entitled “*Truth and Reconciliation: what methods to adopt after a conflict? Putting in perspective Lebanon’s options.*” The conference guest speaker Pierre Hazan, Post-conflict transitional justice professor at Sciences-Po and acclaimed author, shed light on examples of post-conflict reconciliation methods across the world with a special focus on the Moroccan Equity and Truth Commission.

A panel of Lebanese experts including Antoine Messara (Member of the Constitutional Council), Zeina El Helou (Public policy Consultant and Researcher) and Wadih Al Asmar (CLDH Secretary General) talked about the local Lebanese context and the best methods to adopt in order to launch a national reconciliation. Habib Younes, journalist, moderated the conference.

A lively debate took place after the conference where all participants had a chance to ask questions and give their comments and views on the issue. Over 80 persons from civil society, international institutions and Lebanese Government representatives attended this event.

This conference was organized thanks to the generous support of the Foundation for the Future.

Miscellaneous - Support families in legal complaints

- Provision of 2 computers (donated by the ICRC) and office space to the Committee of the Parents of Disappeared or Missing Persons in Lebanon and SOLIDE to start inputting data on the missing in the ICRC AM/PM² database on missing persons.
- CLDH supported families’ organizations in two legal complaints already issued by the committees of the families of missing persons aimed at locating and protecting the three mass graves mentioned in the summary findings of the Lebanese Commission of Investigation into the fate of the Abducted and Disappeared Persons.

² Ante Mortem/Post Mortem

Event – International Day for the Disappeared



On September 3 and 4, CLDH supported an event organized by a group of independent activists to raise awareness on the issue of the missing in Lebanon, on the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared. The event included photo and artistic exhibitions, a concert of alternative music and documentary screenings. The two-day program attracted over 100 members of civil society.

Meetings and coordination with other local NGOs

Several meetings were organized in 2010, with the key stakeholders on the issue of enforced disappearance in Lebanon. These included meetings with representatives of SOLIDE (Lebanese Support in Detention and Exile), the Committee of the Parents of Kidnapped or Missing Persons in Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The purpose of the meetings was:

- to advance a lobbying and action strategy to advance the cause of the missing in Lebanon, notably by discussing how to implement a joint project aimed at creating an identification database on missing persons, which would allow for the identification of bodies in the eventuality that mass graves and bones are discovered in Lebanon.
- to finalize the logistics details of the national scale project to collect ante mortem data in Lebanon. An agreement was reached with the ICMP (International Commission on Missing Persons) to cooperate on this project in order to receive assistance with the processing of DNA samples and to train teams on the ground to conduct the collection of ante mortem data and interviews of the families of missing persons.

Press conferences and Press Releases

- Press Conference denouncing the idea of dividing the files of the missing into two groups (before 1990 and after), February 2010.
- Press Conference commemorating Mothers' Day and honoring mothers of the missing, March 2010.
- Press Conference on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the withdrawal of the Syrian troops urging the Lebanese state to take action on the issue of the missing, April 2010
- Joint Press Release commemorating the five year anniversary of the sit-in at the tent of the missing in front of the United Nations ESCWA building, April 2010
- Joint Press Release commemorating the inauguration of a memorial erected in the memory of Odette Salem (mother of one of the missing persons in Lebanon who died tragically in a road accident), June 2010.
- Press conference, July 22, 2010 in front of the Gibran Khalil Gibran Garden at ESCWA by SOLIDE, CLDH, the Committee of Parents of Kidnapped or Missing Persons in Lebanon and the Committee of the Families of Lebanese Detainees in Syria following the Lebanese Ministerial Delegation's visit to Syria. This visit resulted in a joint Syrian Lebanese communiqué pressing the Joint Syrian-Lebanese Commission tasked with resolving cases of enforced disappearance in Syria (which has served as a mock commission for the last 5 years) to finish its work and suggest propositions to close the file of the disappeared in Lebanon. The Syrian side also confirmed that it did not have any Lebanese disappeared on its soil. Faced with these disheartening statements, the press conference aimed among other things at reminding that the file of the disappeared cannot be closed until families of missing persons receive accurate information on the whereabouts or fate of their loved ones and that a new transparent mechanism is needed to resolve this issue.
- CLDH, SOLIDE, the Committee of the Parents of Kidnapped or Missing Persons in Lebanon and the Committee of the Families of Lebanese Detainees in Syria, [Joint press release on the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared](#), August 30, 2010.
- Joint press release, *Enforced disappearance: It is urgent for Lebanon to ratify the International Convention!* December 23, 2010.

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING and NETWORKING WITH OTHER NGOs

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.

Compilation and dissemination of daily press review

CLDH continued to compile and disseminate a daily press review, gathering all articles on Human Rights issues as published in the Lebanese press. This press review continues to be sought after by many NGOs, institutions, individuals who have been receiving the same by email.



Since July 2010, the Human Rights Press Review (English, Arabic and French articles) is available on a blog “[CLDH Human Rights Press Review](#)”.

Since its inception, the number of users has seen a steady rise, (in 2010, 13 400 views). Furthermore the blog is not only consulted in Lebanon, but also in several other countries (*Figure 1*)

This positive feedback and favorable comments from all blog users encourages us to improve this initiative, and further develop its objectives and related activities for the upcoming year.

Figure 1- Blog Page views by Countries

Blog “Special Tribunal for Lebanon – Monitor”

CLDH continued to update the [Blog “Special Tribunal for Lebanon Monitor”](#). This blog aims at (granting the public opinion access to all information related to the STL): press review in English, French and Arabic; UN documents, etc... In 2010, thousands of articles related to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon published online in the Lebanese press were posted on the Blog.

Lobbying with stakeholders in the framework of the UPR process

In view of Lebanon Universal Periodic Review (UPR), CLDH sent on April 2010 an individual submission tackling the issues of detention, torture and cruel inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, enforced disappearance, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and participated in the joint submission of the “Coalition of Civil Society Organizations in Lebanon for the UPR – CCSOL³” – by addressing in this report the issue of enforced disappearance.

CLDH co-signed a Position paper, entitled “*UPR and UN treaty bodies: the need for a sustainable Human Rights framework*” on July 2010, along with Alef, Alkarama, Restart and Frontiers Ruwad.

Prior to Lebanon’s UPR session, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights organized a lobbying mission in Geneva in October 2010 and invited representatives from CLDH to lobby recommendations. During this mission, CLDH representative met with 19 States representatives (from Europe, South America, etc.)

³ The Coalition gathered 47 CSO including CLDH

Joint initiatives with other NGOs: Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights

The project “Multimedia Space for Human Rights” is being implemented since March 2009 in partnership with COSV, KAFA (Enough violence and Exploitation) and PPM (Permanent Peace Movement), with the financial support of the European Union.

This project aims at strengthening 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, the opening of a documentation centre, hosted at CLDH premises, the publication of researches on Human Rights selected topics.




Human Rights Website

The Website on Human Rights in Lebanon (<http://www.humanrights-lb.org>) that contains a searchable database of Human Rights publications by NGOs and institutions was launched on April 29 at the Faculty of Law, Political and Administrative sciences of the Lebanese University, and was updated on a regular basis throughout the year.

www.humanrights-lb.org

HUMAN RIGHTS IN LEBANON



CLDH, KAFA, PPM and COSV are pleased to invite you to an open day to visit its

HUMAN RIGHTS LIBRARY at CLDH offices

The event will feature music and screenings of short human rights documentaries


Friday, July 30th from 4PM to 7PM






Please RSVP before July 27th at info@cldh-lebanon.org or 01 24 00 23

Address
Lebanese Center for Human Rights
Mar Youssef Str, Balbeka Building, 1st Floor
Dora, Beirut.

– Drinks and Snacks will be served –

Visit the human rights library to browse materials on human rights such as national and international reports, books, legal resources, and other useful materials. The library is part of the Project “Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights” funded by the European Union.





Human Rights Library Open Day

The physical library of the project was established in CLDH premises and is available for use by the public (students, researchers, journalists etc). CLDH, KAFA, PPM and COSV organized on July 30, an open day to visit the Library. During this event, participants were invited to visit the Human Rights library, to browse materials on Human Rights such as national and international reports, books, legal resources, and other useful materials.

The event featured music and screenings of short human rights documentaries.

Conclusion

We are fully aware that in spite of all our efforts, our work is no more than a drop in the ocean. Nevertheless, this drop sometimes makes the difference. It makes the difference for the individuals supported by CLDH. It helps changing the mentalities by providing safeguards in some situations. And we do believe that it is promoting global change on the long term.

Once again CLDH thanks all organizations, individuals, embassies and institutions actively involved in supporting the progress of human rights in Lebanon and all over the world.

We hope to have the chance to develop new cooperation and partnerships in the coming years and we encourage volunteers and activists to join us.

Martin Luther King once said:

Whatever career you may choose for yourself - doctor, lawyer, teacher - let me propose an avocation to be pursued along with it.

Become a dedicated fighter for civil rights.

Make it a central part of your life. It will make you a better doctor, a better lawyer, a better teacher.

It will enrich your spirit as nothing else possibly can. It will give you that rare sense of nobility that can only spring from love and selflessly helping your fellow man.

Make a career of humanity.

Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights.

You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in.

Thank you.