

THE RIGHTS OBSERVER BY CLDH

Monitoring the Latest Human Rights Violations from the Field

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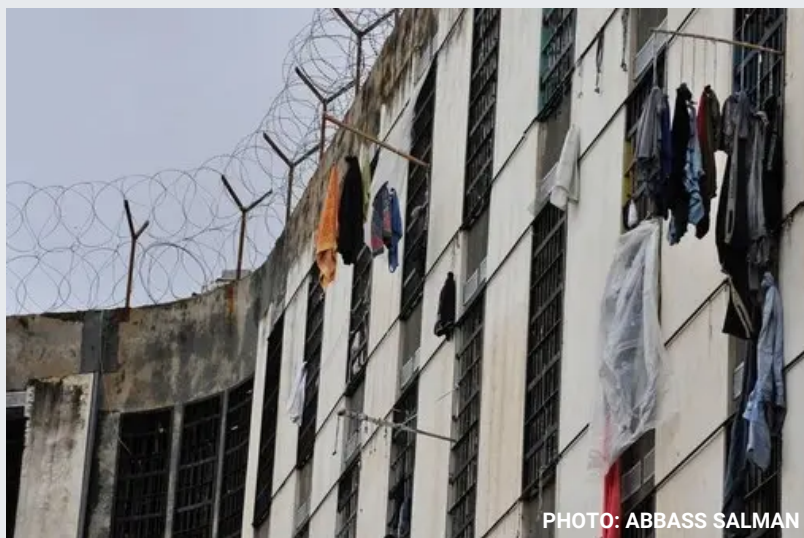


PHOTO: ABBASS SALMAN

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN LEBANESE PRISONS

- HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE IN PRISONS HITTING ROCK BOTTOM

CLDH's frontliners monitored several human rights violations in Lebanese prisons. Prisoners are struggling to access medication and healthcare.



PHOTO: BILAL JAWICH/ANADOLU AGENCY



A WORD FROM THE TEAM

"Our leitmotif is to defend victims and denounce violations regardless of who the victims are and the nature of the violation."

- Wadih Al-Asmar, CLDH's President

- **FOOD QUALITY IN LEBANESE PRISONS**

Input by legal aid and research teams

Inmates stated that the prison foods is not being stored in refrigerators, and the ingredients are kept for days in the sun. Prisoners are eating meals contaminated by cigarettes and cigarette buds.

- **TRANSPORTATION NOT PROVIDED**

When detainees are injured or unwell, transportation to hospital is not provided by law enforcement. Transiting detainees to courts is also impractical. Convicts are not even able to attend their hearings due to the increase of fuel prices.

- **HOW LONG WILL PRISONERS PAY THE PRICE OF JUDICIAL STRIKES?**

Lebanese courts have been shut down due to ongoing the judicial strike. There used to be exceptions for those who had been detained before strikes. However, this time, the courts are not granting exceptions. Additionally, courts are on their annual vacation.

The cost is borne by the inmates. There haven't been any trials, and new prisoners are being detained, leading to overcrowding. Even the military court has stopped functioning.

The Ministry of Finance's closure is delaying the release of convicts. Families are unable to assist prisoners with their release from custody because they are unaware of the proper procedure.

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Life in prison is a daily struggle. The administration is struggling to provide food, water and electricity, which leads to constant frustration among prison personnel and prisoners.

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- **DISCRIMINATION FOLLOWS MIGRANT WORKERS EVEN BEHIND BARS**

Language is a major barrier that foreigners and migrant workers face everyday whether inside or outside prison, due to the absence of translators and lawyers who handle such cases.

Consequently, migrants are unable to communicate with anyone which delays their trials indefinitely until embassies or relevant authorities follow up on the matter.

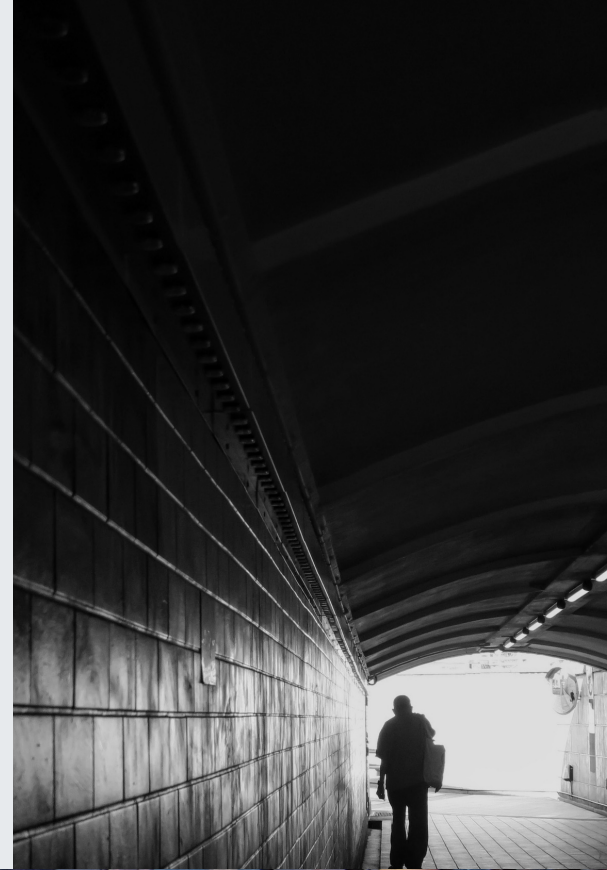
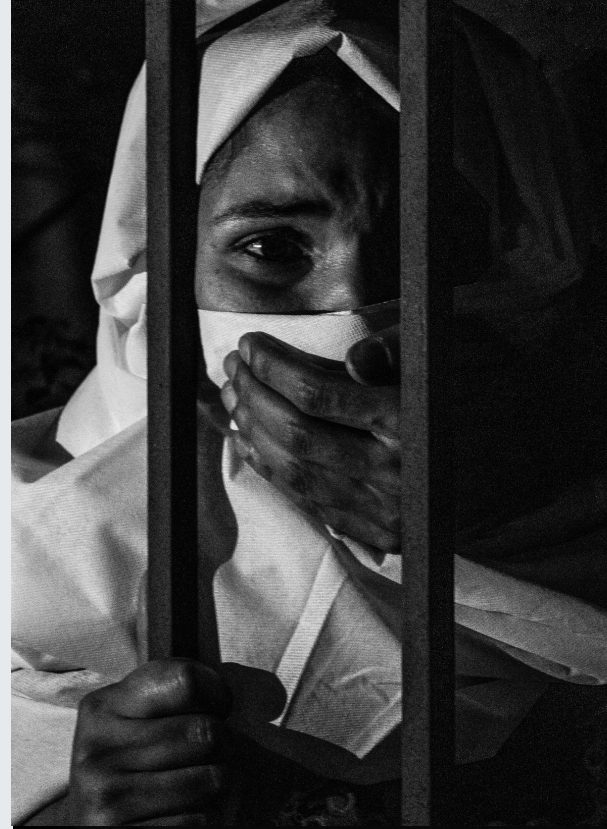
CLDH'S LEGAL AND PROTECTION TEAM PROVIDES LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATIONS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LEBANON.

- **FROM BASIC RIGHTS TO COMMUNICATION: MIGRANT WORKERS DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS**

Migrant workers are denied their basic rights in Lebanon. Some are unable to contact their family members or friends while behind bars.

If prison staff cannot find the contact information of a migrant worker's relatives, they refer to the contact provided on their papers, which is, in most cases, their sponsor's. However, sponsors often refuse to cooperate to help the migrant worker in need.

In certain situations, these migrant workers have no ties nor someone to send them food or clothing. Some keep wearing the same clothes that they wore on the day they were detained.





- **INEQUALITY LEANING THE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF CERTAIN GROUPS**

Prison overcrowding, technological advancements, inmate violence, and safety are contributing factors to the inequality between prisons in Lebanon.

In poorer facilities, there are no cleaning or stationery supplies nor resources to meet the minimum standards. Various human rights abuses have been monitored, such as the right to hygiene.

Some prisons transfer violent inmates to lower quality prisons to keep the prosperity in them. Meanwhile, in other facilities overcrowding is causing many problems. In Roumieh prison for instance, there is on average 4 to 5 prisoners in rooms that should only fit one.





**CLDH'S BEKAA TEAM
PROVIDES LEGAL ASSISTANCE
TO VULNERABLE GROUPS
INCLUDING SYRIAN REFUGEES.**

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RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

Input by services providers in Baalbeck

- **EXPLOITING A REFUGEE CAMP,
WHAT LANDLORDS KNOW BEST**

Following several disputes with landlords threatening to evict refugees, camps are in a dire situation. In response to these challenges, focal points at refugee camps have reached out to UNHCR and the Ministry of Defense and the concerned municipalities, yet violations remain.

After evictions, landlords abuse these camps by seizing all they can and selling the water tanks and the shelters. They believe that refugee camps are not paying them enough.

- **WHAT ARE THE
CONSEQUENCES?**

Refugees are living in harsher conditions and are unable to make use of the old equipment in the new clusters because they are ill-prepared and under-resourced.

**CLDH'S NASSIM TEAM PROVIDES
REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR
VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND
ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES.**
