

THE RIGHTS OBSERVER BY CLDH

Monitoring the Latest Human Rights Violations from the Field

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01

TERROR AGAINST DIVERSITY: INCREASED CRACKDOWN ON LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS

Extremist groups are gaining more popularity in their radical anti-LGBTQ+ movement, terrorizing not only LGBTQ+ individuals but also any empathetic allies.

• ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

A Syrian LGBTQ+ member has reported being mistreated by the municipality's police in Dekwenh after he was illegally raided, and his phone was illegally confiscated. Moreover, the municipality accessed private information through a breach of the phone's security system with no judicial warrant.

A WORD FROM THE TEAM

"If each one of us were to realize that our reality as a person is not the same for others, as we perceive life through our story and emotions; the world today would be on its way towards a more accepting and peaceful time."

- **Stephanie Haddad, Psychologist at CLDH**



- **ATTACKING ALLIES**

A rehabilitative hospital was harassed by an extremist group known as the “Soldiers of Faiha’a” for having a pride flag on their brochure.

- **ATTACK ON FREEDOM: UNLAWFUL CRACKDOWN**

The extremist anti-LGBTQ+ religious group, known as the Soldiers of God (“Jnoud el Rabb”) have taken an offensive stance against LGBTQ+ people, with increased robberies and cases of aggravated assault being reported. One of CLDH’s beneficiaries reported being harassed and assaulted in an attempt by members of the group to rob him.

02 CONTINUOUS SYRIAN HARDSHIPS IN LEBANON

Considering recent turmoil against Syrians, CLDH’s Tripoli team has reported ongoing mass deportations and raids on Syrian refugee camps, as well as a growing resentment against any kind of inclusion and tolerance.

- **RESTRICTED MOVEMENT FOR SYRIANS**

The freedom of movement of Syrians residing in Lebanon is being significantly restricted, which amounts to a fundamental violation of their human rights. For instance, in Tamnin, a stringent curfew has been enforced upon Syrians in the area, restricting their movements past 19:00. Similarly, in Deir al Ahmar, a 20:00 curfew has been imposed, with exceptions being made solely if the Syrians get in touch with the municipality with a reasonable excuse. Such curfews can exacerbate social tensions and isolation, which jeopardizes Syrians’ dignity and impacts the overall stability of the regions where they reside.



• **CONFISCATION OF BELONGINGS**

Syrian refugee camp raids have been reported in the regions of Tripoli and Beka'a, in which Syrian refugees live in less-than-average conditions. At the same time, they were allegedly physically and verbally abused by the Lebanese Armed Forces, and several of their belongings were taken away, including but not limited to solar panels, motorcycles, internet services, and raw materials such as wood.

03

LIFE IN PRISON: DETERIORATING LIVING CONDITIONS

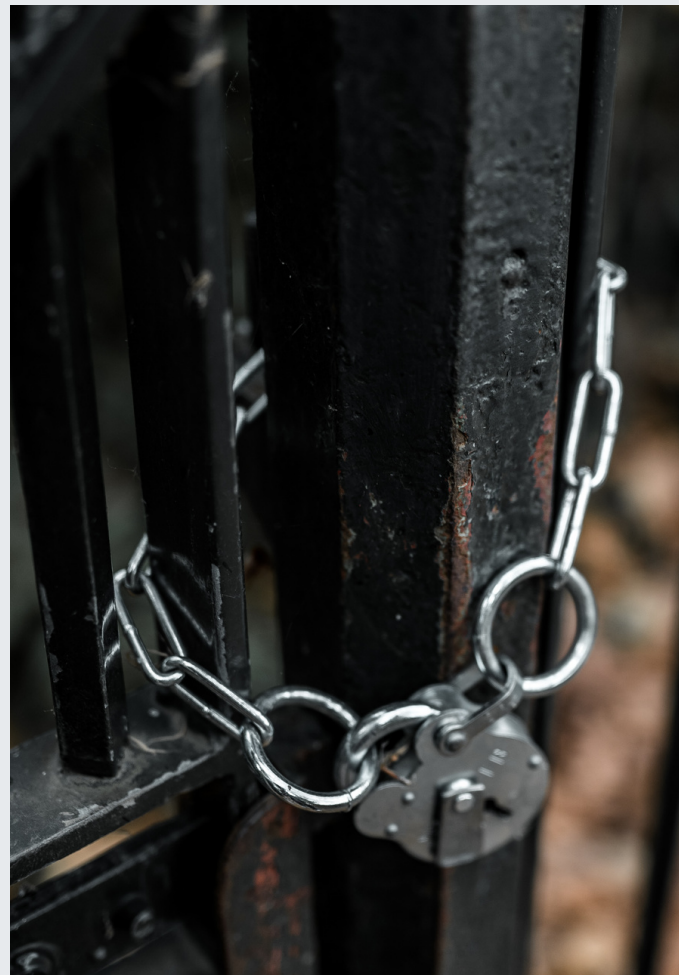
Conditions in the overcrowded and poorly maintained Lebanese prisons continue degrading. Reports of poor security in Lebanon's biggest and most overrun prison, Prison of Roumieh, as well as multiple cases of human rights violations such as, but not limited to health, sleeping, and ethical violations have been noted.

• **POOR MAINTENANCE OF PRISON EQUIPMENT**

In Roumieh prison, all security scanners that are used to track what is going in and out of the prison are broken, except for one. Consequently, the waiting line for the single-functioning scanner can last up to hours. Moreover, the handheld scanner is reportedly never functioning, as it is out of batteries. These obstacles pose a serious threat to the overall security of the prison and the safety of prisoners. The reduced security efficiency not only heightens the risk of security breaches but also exposes the prison to potential exploitation, including the smuggling of illegal items and unauthorized access to restricted areas.

• **LIMITED TRANSPORTATION**

Prisoners across Lebanon are unable to attend their court hearings due to a lack of transportation. For instance, Zahle's men prison, which has a capacity to hold 500 detainees, now houses roughly 800 prisoners and has only one transportation vehicle.



- **UNKNOWN REASON FOR ARREST**

A prisoner has been detained since February 21, 2023, and has yet to know why he has been arrested. This is an arbitrary detention carried out without proper legal basis, which is a clear violation of his right to know the cause of his arrest.

- **ABUSE OF POWER**

In Baabda's women prison, a male prison guard has violated the in-house rule that no male is allowed into a female prison. In addition, reports claim that the guard is exploiting his position and regularly entering and assaulting female detainees.

- **HEALTH HAZARD**

Prisons are reportedly low on medicine and are unable to provide water and electricity for prisoners, which constitutes a health hazard and leads to sickness. This is particularly dangerous for elderly detainees, as there have been reports of cases of loss of consciousness within prisons.

- **VIOLATION OF PRIVACY**

CLDH frontliners have reported a lack of privacy during psychosocial support sessions with inmates in Baabda prison, as it has become mandatory to keep the door open. This is in violation of therapist confidentiality, since private information is being leaked to prison staff. Keeping the door open also jeopardizes the beneficiary's safety, as the information they share may be held against them and used as leverage to exploit them. Moreover, this renders the beneficiaries hesitant to speak and causes them to gradually lose trust.



The rule of law is imperative to the success of society, as it anchors the good and the bad and differentiates right from wrong. Lately, this has not been the case in Lebanon.

- **CLOG IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

The accusation chamber in Mount Lebanon is not issuing any order, leaving many cases remaining undecided. Reports claim that documents are stuck in limbo, meaning they get lost in the process of public prosecution and halt the process of the law.

- **UNAFFORDABLE BAIL**

The amount for release on bail has seen an upward spike once again. It is now valued at around rough minimum of 10.000.000 Lebanese Lira across Lebanese courts.

- **BIAS IN THE “PREVALENT” EXECUTION OF THE LAW**

A case of racism was reported, whereby the judge's clerk swore the victim's nationality when one of CLDH's lawyers went to review a release on bail for the victim, who is a minor from Syrian origin.

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

- **VIOLENT REFUSION OF CONTRACT TERMINATION**

A Syrian father of 12 was denied moving out of a property in Aachkout. On the day the family was supposed to move out, the landlord came with fellow acquaintances and forcibly opposed them. The escalation resulted in physical injuries to the father.

- **LEGAL SHORTCOMINGS**

Unjustified delays in issuing indictments from the accusation chamber, as well as refrainment from issuing decisions by investigative judges in Baabda continue obstructing the legal process. The criminal court in Zahle is also holding back on issuing decisions on cases and files they have had in their possession for over a year.

- **DETAINEES MISSING FROM COURT HEARINGS**

Prisoners are unable to attend their court hearings in Beirut and Zahle courts due to mismanagement and miscommunication. Therefore, their hearing appointments keep getting postponed.

- **CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE PROVISION VIOLATIONS**

Baalbek and Zahle court judges are not informing the defendants of their court hearing appointments. In the rare instance that the judges do inform, they inform the defendants' lawyers, which is a violation of the provisions of Article 76 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.



- **DAMAGING STRIKES**

Saida court's single criminal judge has been on strike since September 14, 2023. It is no longer possible to hold hearings and manage the detainees' files, which in turn impairs the system and creates several obstacles.

- **MISMANAGEMENT IN JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS**

As Zahle's first judge approaches retirement, no steps have been taken to address the impending vacancy. Without consideration of potential candidates for this position, there is a risk of creating a vacuum in the court system. This, in turn, could exacerbate the inefficiencies of the legal system, heightening the likelihood of arbitrary detentions and perpetuating injustice.



• 13-HOUR-SHIFT

One of CLDH's Iraqi beneficiaries reported being overworked in a dental clinic, working up to 13 hours a day with little to no lunch and toilet breaks. The labor law is thus not being executed properly, as this clearly violates the maximum working hours and the minimum breaks of a worker outlined in Article 31 and Article 34 of Chapter 3 of the Lebanese Code of Labour of 1946. These inhumane working conditions additionally exploit the worker's physical and mental well-being, inevitably subjecting them to severe health issues and vulnerabilities.

• DROWNING PALACE OF JUSTICE

Considering the radical changes in weather, many buildings and streets were submerged under water, notably the Palace of Justice, which was leaking heavily. This caused the water to flood into the building and pool up in the underground floors, rendering property damage as well as damage to official files probable.

Amidst the unfolding geopolitical tensions in the Levant, human rights transgressions have become a common sight. The quest for upholding human rights remains a relentless endeavor that must not fade in the face of adversities. These rights form the cornerstone of a dignified life, and their breach signifies a violation of life's fundamental sanctity. Through a steadfast commitment to ensuring these rights, we pave the way for a hopeful, resilient Lebanon. The path toward a just and equitable country necessitates a collective resolve, underscoring the indispensable nature of human rights in fostering a secure and prosperous nation.

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Whenever the duration of work exceeds six non-stop hours for men and five non-stop hours for women, the employer is required to allow these wage-earners and salary-earners in the middle of the day, a rest-time which is not to be under one hour.

**ARTICLE 34 OF THE LEBANESE CODE
OF LABOUR OF 1946**

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

