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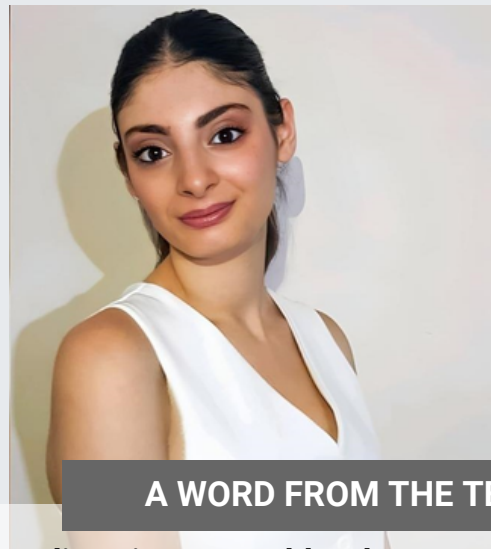
# THE RIGHTS OBSERVER

BY CLDH

*Monitoring the Latest Human Rights Violations from the Field*

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### A WORD FROM THE TEAM

*We live in a world where power prevails, which is why we need to stand in solidarity with human rights violation survivors.*

*- Hilda Saab, Programs and Nassim Center Coordinator*

## 1. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS, IMPACT SYRIAN REFUGEES' STUDENT CERTIFICATION

01

- CLDH team has observed that some Syrian children are being denied access to education due to the absence of official documents or a previous UNHCR registration number. However, since 2016, UNHCR has replaced this number with a code and no longer issues it to students. As a result, schools are refusing to issue certificates to students who lack this number. This issue was raised by several of our beneficiaries in Tripoli and Akkar.



## 02

# CONSTANT CHALLENGES IN THE QUEST FOR RESIDENCY

- **Mukhtars Hinderings Syrians' Residency**

Syrians in Lebanon face multiple obstacles obtaining residency documents, placing them at risk of illegal status and potential expulsion. Our team at CLDH, has observed that certain mukhtars' refuse to issue residency certificates in different areas in Lebanon, citing concerns over "permanent settlement".

However, mukhtars are not the only barrier to residency permits. Some sponsors demand between \$500 to \$1,000 from Syrians registered under their sponsorship with the General Security, in exchange for residency renewal. Additionally, many Syrians cannot afford the required fees which range from 4.9 to 13 million Lebanese pounds.



- **Sponsors' Exploitation Due to Residency Insecurity**

Migrants in Lebanon face various human rights violations. Sponsors threaten them with salary withholding and expulsion, forcing them to work for extended hours under exploitative conditions.

## 03

# RACKETEERING, BULLYING AND LACK OF PRIVACY IMPEDE PRISONERS' WELLBEING

- **Internal Security Forces Turn a Blind Eye on Complaints Against Inmate Room Supervisors**

Inmates in Qobbeh prison for men (AKA Tripoli Men's Prison) are subjected to racketeering by an inmate who acts as the room supervisor (Known as Chawish in Arabic), and who appears to be protected by prison guards. The Internal Security Forces (ISF) deny receiving any complaints, effectively dismissing the issue.

- **Lack of Financial Means Prevents Prisoners from Meeting Their Basic Needs**

At Qobbeh prison for women, Northern Lebanon, certain inmates with financial difficulties and limited family support are subject to discrimination and exploitation, thus hindering their ability to meet basic needs.



Photo: Getty Images

## **04 PRISONERS DEPRIVED OF A TIMELY TRIAL OR RELEASE IN BAABDA CRIMINAL COURT**

- **Failing to Transport Prisoners Delays Hearings**

Numerous systemic failures deny prisoners a timely trial. For instance, some prisoners are not transported to court using the excuse of shortage of vehicles, particularly to the Baabda Criminal Court, despite evidence that other prisoners are being transported. As a result, some prisoners are obliged to wait months for their hearing.

Failure to transport prisoners to their hearings is not the only factor delaying trials. certain Detention centers also calculate a month of imprisonment as 30 days instead of the legally stipulated 20 days, thereby illegally prolonging legal proceedings. This practice is in direct violations of the Cassation Prosecution's circular.



Photo: Getty Images

**CLDH'S LEGAL AND PROTECTION TEAMS PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATIONS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LEBANON.**

- **Missing Reports in Prisoners' Files Lead to Unlawful Prolonged Detention**

In addition to delayed hearings, some prisoners experience unlawful prolonged detention after completing their legally mandated sentences due to administrative negligence in failing to process reports, which should have been resolved earlier. Prisoners also face arbitrary detention when arrests are made under warrants or default judgments by officers other than those who issued them, leading to delays in execution of release orders. This is a violation of a prisoner's right to liberty and a blatant disregard to the rule of law.

- **Unjustifiable Refusal of Bail Prolong Custody Period**

In addition to the above, indictments are frequently issued following unreasonable delays, with case files remaining pending for periods exceeding three years. This is a severe violation of the right to a timely trial. Additional instances of prolonged detention include the arbitrary rejection of bail requests, devoid of any legal basis, leading to infringing upon the fundamental right to liberty. Moreover, some detainees face a prolonged Detention Period prior to their formal transfer to General Security. This pre-transfer detention, without defined legal parameters, can lead to either deportation or release, often without a proper due process.



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS IMPEDE THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

- **Financial Obstacles Hinder Fair Trials**

Financial barriers to a fair trial are multifaceted in Lebanon. The CLDH team has documented inconsistent application of fees and stamps requirements on legal requests. Specifically, certain courts are rejecting receipts from designated Ministry of Finance offices within courthouses as an alternative for revenue stamps, despite the ongoing challenges in obtaining these stamps. This practice imposes undue financial burdens and impedes access to justice.



- **Failure to Maintain Arrest Reports and Records Release Orders Violate Fundamental Human Rights**

Administrative barriers undermine due process. These include the loss of certain arrest reports within the Tripoli Public Prosecutor's Office. Additionally, procedural irregularities involving court clerks impede access to information. Access to information is also impeded when Investigating Judges make it extremely difficult to obtain any information regarding case files. Additionally, clerks are failing to submit bail release requests to the appropriate case files. Furthermore, some release orders are not recorded in the court's official registry, creating a void and hindering families' ability to inquire about the status of detained relatives. This is a violation of the right to fair trial.

Finally, some court employees are assigned to multiple courts simultaneously which results in systemic delays and hinders effective case management. This overextension of personnel creates hectic workload and compromises the efficient administration of justice.