

THE RIGHTS OBSERVER BY CLDH

Monitoring the Latest Human Rights Violations from the Field

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A WORD FROM THE TEAM

“Advocacy is the lifeline of human rights, ensuring voices are heard and justice is pursued.”

- SARAH NASRALLAH, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AT CLDH

01 INSECURITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS

• ESCALATING ANTI-SYRIAN BIAS

The rise of anti-Syrian bias has been rampant in Lebanon. There has been an increase in reports of unlawful raids on Syrian neighborhoods and homes that have instilled a fear of movement and coming into the Center, particularly noted by our team in Tripoli. Through increased monitoring of the situation, a decrease in discriminatory violations towards the quality of life of Syrians must be instituted to uphold human rights in Lebanon.

- **ISSUES WITH IDENTIFICATION**

Despite the existing challenges refugees face when trying to renew their residency in Lebanon, they are now encountering additional obstacles. The General Directorate of General Security is refusing to accept refugees' identification cards if they are scratched or damaged, obstructing the residency renewal process. It is important to note that many refugees are unable to obtain new identification cards, making the process even harder.

- **FEAR OF REGISTERING THE FAMILY**

Registering family record books has become increasingly challenging as authorities require the original family book for registration, which many individuals are unable or unwilling to provide. These concerns come over the lengthy processing times without these sensitive documents and concerns about their sensitive family documentation being sent to Syria.

02

DEGRADING JUSTICE WITHIN THE NATIONAL PRISON SYSTEM

- **TRANSPORTATION DILEMMA IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

In Baabda, CLDH front-liners have highlighted that court trials are being delayed due to the lack of transportation for inmates. These delays have pushed back proceedings ranging from seven to eight months. Moreover, the observation that some prisoners are transferred while others remain raises the question of why this discrepancy occurs.

- **LONG DELAYS IN ENACTING JUSTICE:**

Members of the CLDH Legal Team have corroborated the detention delays as a persistent issue of non-compliance with the legal duration of pre-trial detention has resulted in extended periods of detention without trial. In addition to non-compliance, the team's lawyers have noted that the excuse of security conditions and logistical issues all over Lebanon have resulted in significant delays in legal proceedings. Additionally, detention has been increasingly prolonged, due to detainees being placed in centers and prisons far from the public prosecution office where their file is located. Given the difficulty with transportation for detainees and the distance, the delays in case proceedings impact the judicial system's overall efficacy.

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“Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.”

*- ARTICLE 16 OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS*

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PHOTO: ABBASS SALMAN / AL ARABYA

**CLDH'S NASSIM TEAM PROVIDES
REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR
VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND
INFORCED DISSAPEARANCES.**



- **FAIRNESS**

Many foreign nationals have been deported immediately after completing their sentences. This practice, which overlooks their circumstances and the possibility of being under the threat of torture, has raised concerns about its consistency and fairness.

- **DELAYS LINKED TO POLICE REPORTS**

Several instances have been reported in which people have been detained for months due to the failure to link warrants to police reports. The administrative oversight over their charges has caused undue delays and extensions of detentions.

03

ADMINISTRATIVE HURDLES WITHIN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS?**

Several courts are experiencing delays in processing judicial files. Judges have been absent from their court positions for periods extending two weeks, impacting the overall efficiency of the judicial system. Moreover, in Bekaa, when files are transferred to the Public Prosecutors' Office to present their submissions, the turnover time extends over two weeks. This constitutes a violation of Article 121 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which states that the Public Prosecution Office shall present its submissions within a period not exceeding one week.

- **JUDGES' REFUSAL**

In Mount Lebanon, some judges are refusing to sign abstracts or release notices issued by their colleagues. This refusal has resulted in the unjustified detention of prisoners for administrative reasons that could be resolved and avoided.

- **RESTRICTIONS IN THE DEFENSE OF JUVENILES**

Some juvenile courts have refused to allow lawyers to photocopy their clients' case files, despite the right to defense being sacrosanct. Invoking confidentiality, which is a legal measure, cannot be used against defense lawyers who are hoping to gain a larger understanding of their clients' situation. This unlawful justification has hindered lawyers' ability to provide adequate representation.



PHOTO: REUTERS



SECURITY SITUATION DECREASES MASSIVELY IN TRIPOLI

• POOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE KILLS MINOR

Social workers and front-liners at the Nassim Center for Rehabilitation in Tripoli have reported to tend to a range of concerning incidents within the last three months. For instance, in May, a thirteen-year-old student fell through a gap inside the school bus upon returning from school. Due to the bus floor experiencing such deterioration, the bus unintentionally ran over the student, highlighting the increased focus and attention of CLDH to advocate for stronger improvements to transportation safety.

• ANTI-SYRIAN INTIMIDATION AND DISCRIMINATION

Front-liners from the Nassim Center in Tripoli also reported addressing increased harassment of Syrian refugees. A recent instance occurred where a minor was harassed and assaulted by the bodyguard of a member of parliament in Koura, south of Tripoli.



PHOTO: MICHEL HALLAK

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

