



Activities
Report

2013

Lebanese Center for Human Rights
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Presentation of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) is a local non-profit, non-partisan Lebanese human rights organization based in Beirut. CLDH was created in 2006 by the Franco-Lebanese Movement SOLIDA (Support for Lebanese Detained Arbitrarily), which has been active since 1996 in the struggle against arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and the impunity of those perpetrating gross human rights violations.

CLDH monitors the human rights situation in Lebanon, fights enforced disappearance, impunity, arbitrary detention and racism and rehabilitates the victims of torture. CLDH regularly organizes press conferences, workshops and advocacy meetings on human rights issues in Lebanon and collects, records and documents human rights abuses in reports and press releases.

CLDH team on the ground supports initiatives aimed at determining the fate of all missing persons in Lebanon.

CLDH regularly follows up on numerous cases of arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon in coordination with Lebanese and international organizations, and with the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention WGAD and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

CLDH opened in 2007 a Rehabilitation Center for the victims of torture in Beirut, Centre Nassim, member of IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims), which provides multi-disciplinary professional support and case management for victims of torture and their families.

CLDH compiles a daily press review on human rights violations and on-going judiciary cases in Lebanon and updates several human rights blogs.

CLDH is a founding member of the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearance (FEMED), a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Human Rights (REMDH), a member of the SOS Torture Network of the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), and of FIDH (International Federation of Human Rights).

Donors

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

- **AEDH** (Working Together for Human Rights) – supported the legal assistance activities to migrant workers
- **AHRF** (Arab Human Rights Fund) - Supported activities of the “Arbitrary Detention” and “Torture in Lebanon” programs of CLDH
- **CFLI** (Canada Fund for Local Initiatives) - Supported CLDH in various activities
- **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** - Supported the campaign for the ratification of the Convention for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearance in partnership with FEMED (Euro-Mediterranean Federation against enforced disappearance)
- **La Luz** - Financially supported Centre Nassim through IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) for rehabilitation of women and girls who have survived sexual, physical and psychological torture.
- **MEPI** (Middle East Partnership Initiative) - Funded a project entitled “Media Monitoring in Lebanon to Promote Democracy and Human Rights”
- **Oak Foundation** - Financially supported Centre Nassim
- **OMCT** (World Organization Against Torture) - Supported beneficiaries of Centre Nassim through its social assistance program.
- **Open Society Foundation** - Renewed its support to the project “Legal assistance to vulnerable inmates in Lebanese prisons”
- **The Swiss Embassy in Beirut** - provided CLDH with funding for various activities.
- **TRACE for Health Care Management** - Supported the Summer Camp for Children
- **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 and Torture in Lebanon

Objective **Contribute effectively to reducing the practice of arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon**

1. Summons

During 2013, CLDH representatives were summoned three times at Baabda palace of justice for investigation as a continuation of an investigation opened on the basis of complaint by the Amal Movement against CLDH. As stated in the previous activities reports, this investigation was opened following a publication by CLDH on February 11, 2011 of a report entitled “Arbitrary Detention and Torture in Lebanon: the bitter reality of Lebanon”.

The above mentioned report outlines patterns of arbitrary detention and torture in Lebanon, based on testimonies, interviews, and statistical data. The report tackles the alleged practice of arbitrary detention and torture by most of Lebanese security services that deal with arrests. The lawsuit against CLDH is based on information mentioned in the report which states that Amal Movement might have been involved in arrests and torture practices during their investigations. However, as stated on page 29 of the report, CLDH explains that during the course of the study it was not possible to evaluate the frequency of these torture allegations.

CLDH called for support of human rights organizations, activists and all concerned individuals to show the Lebanese authorities that no intimidation can stop the crucial work being carried out to make Lebanon a better place. Individuals, lawyers and organizations expressed their solidarity with CLDH and continued to follow up the case closely.

2. Legal Assistance to Vulnerable Inmates in the Lebanese Prisons

In Lebanon the prison population is exceeding almost three times the capacities of detention facilities. Meanwhile, a large amount of detainees and prisoners could be immediately released if they could avail adequate legal assistance.

Insufficient judiciary assistance by the Lebanese state, insufficient amounts paid to the lawyers at the end of each calendar year that do not cover their real expenses in the cases, are at the core of this problem. Consequently, the lawyers do not have a possibility to effectively defend low-income inmates who are not in a position to cover certain expenses. In addition, foreigners that have been convicted for illegal entry or stay are not included in the judiciary assistance provided by the Lebanese state, thus, they are left in a limbo state without lawyers defending their cases.

Every year, CLDH provides lawyers for inmates who cannot afford it and this legal assistance allows dozens of inmates to be released.

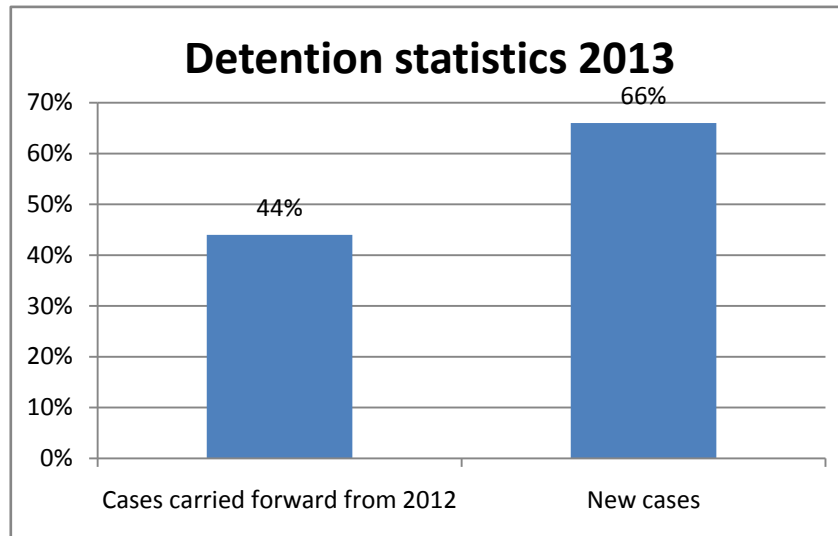
This project implemented with the support of Open Society Foundation, the Arab Human Rights Fund, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and the Swiss Embassy in Beirut in 2013, improves access to Justice for all and helps reducing the practice of arbitrary detention in Lebanon, with a particular focus on the protection of marginalized people.

3. Implementation

During the reported period, CLDH continued to visit Lebanese prisons and to meet victims of arbitrary detention and victims of torture. It also received many cases referred by relevant prison visitors, families and relatives of inmates. CLDH continued to document and follow up their cases in accordance with the demands and specific needs of the beneficiaries of the program.

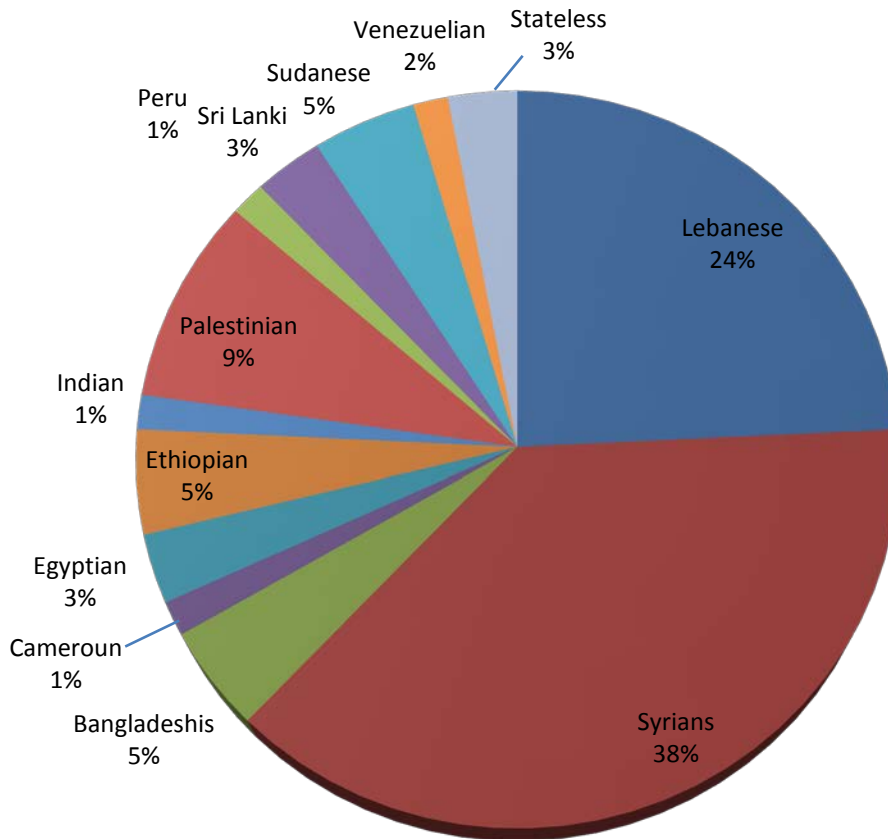
Of all the cases that CLDH assisted to in 2013, 66% percent were new cases, while 44% were a follow up from 2012.

As a direct result of the legal assistance activities, 70% of the assisted cases were released.



With the increasing number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and with the inadequate legislative framework of Lebanon regarding refugees, an increased number of Syrian citizens was assisted by CLDH legal assistance program.

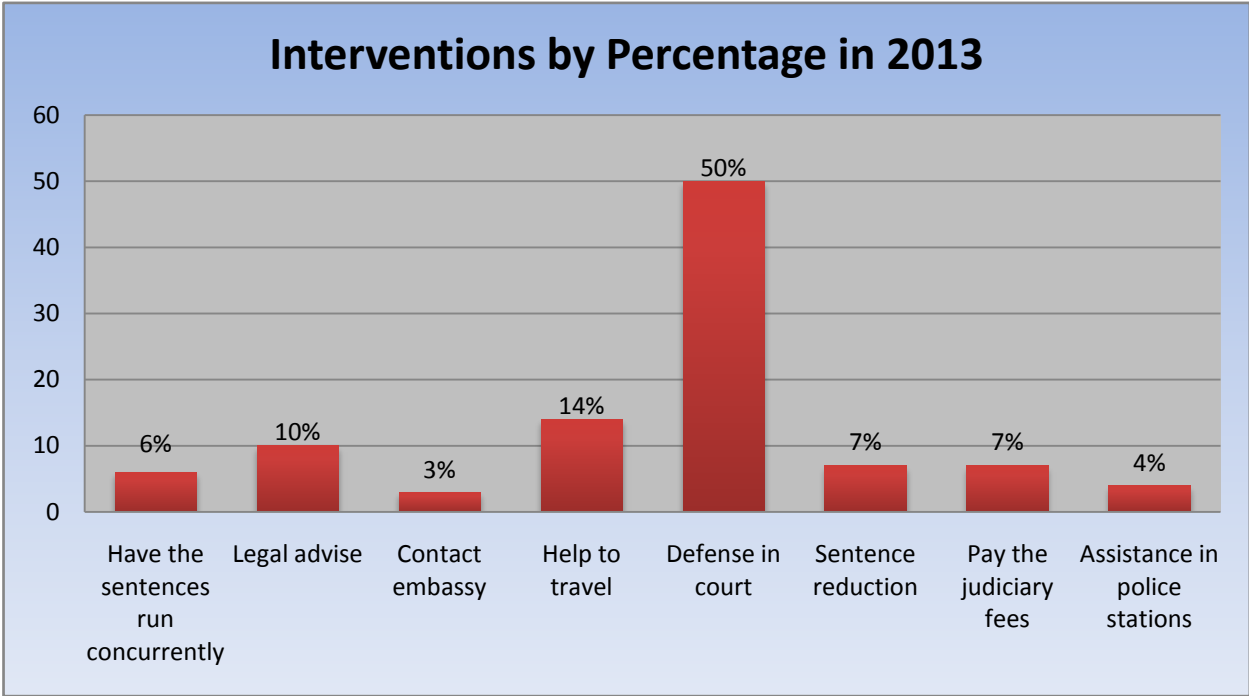
Nationalities of the persons assisted in prisons in 2013



The legal assistance program implemented by CLDH covers the following interventions to inmates in Lebanese prisons:

- Legal advice;
- Contacting the corresponding embassy;
- Helping travel;
- Defense in court;
- Sentence reduction;
- Paying judiciary fees;
- Assistance in police stations;
- Having the sentences run concurrently.

The percentage of these interventions can be seen in the following chart:



4. Events

During the reported period, the following events were hosted or co-hosted by CLDH:

- ***“Legal assistance to vulnerable inmates: facts and challenges” February 13, 2013***

On February 13, 2013, CLDH organized a roundtable in Beirut to present some of its findings resulting from the project entitled “Legal assistance to vulnerable inmates in the Lebanese prisons”. The roundtable took place under the patronage of the Minister of Justice Shakib Qortbawi, to whom CLDH had previously presented a number of recommendations. The roundtable was attended by Judge Hisham Khoury, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, representatives of the United Nations in Lebanon, of several embassies, NGOs, and various security services concerned with detention issues (Internal Security Forces, Army and General Security) as well as bar association representatives of Tripoli and Beirut. This roundtable not only brought to the public attention the current activities of CLDH and its partners in the field of legal assistance but also allowed the organization to maintain the relationships that CLDH has developed with those involved in detention issues.

Several interviews with beneficiaries of the project¹, prepared by Rights Cast, were displayed.

The testimony of one of them, a Sudanese refugee assisted under this program, and then by Nassim Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture – a CLDH project - was particularly moving: "In 2012, I was arrested outside UNHCR offices for illegal entry in Lebanon. I met CLDH in Roumieh prison. I explained to them my problem. I suffered a lot because my wife and my child were alone outside the prison. I was released by CLDH. They gave me hope: after I left the prison of General Security I was very depressed and psychologically affected by what happened to me in jail, I could not return to a normal life without their help. "

During this roundtable, CLDH also made public a report regarding its legal assistance program which was supported by: Open Society Foundation, Arab Human Rights Fund, Working Together for Human Rights and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

The event got a decent media attention² as it raised important issues regarding the situation of Lebanese prisons and inmates that occupy them.

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O22KFXHZXXI>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_Pd_62PVXg
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJAallfozZA>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUEUoC-i4Hw>

² <http://www.alanwar-leb.com/article.php?categoryID=4&articleID=187119>

- **“International Day in Support of Victims of Torture” June 26, 2013**



Sous le patronage de Son Excellence Monsieur Patrice Paoli, Ambassadeur de France au Liban
L'Ambassade de France au Liban, l'Institut des droits de l'Homme de l'Ordre des Avocats de Beyrouth et le Centre Libanais des Droits Humains (CLDH)
vous invitent à une conférence-débat

A l'occasion de la Journée internationale de soutien aux victimes de la torture

Avec la participation de :

Me Elisabeth Zakharia Sioufi,
Directrice de l'Institut des Droits de l'Homme de l'Ordre des Avocats de Beyrouth

Monsieur Wadiah al Asmar,
Secrétaire Général du Centre Libanais des Droits Humains

Monsieur Nicolas Declercq,
Commissaire divisionnaire et attaché de sécurité intérieure à l'Ambassade de France

Le Juge Raja Abinader,
Représentant du Ministère de la Justice

Le Lieutenant Colonel Ziad Caed Bay,
Représentant des Forces de Sécurité Intérieure

Le débat sera modéré par :

Dr Nidal Jurdi,
Représentant du Bureau du Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'Homme des Nations Unies

Mercredi 26 juin 2013 – de 11h à 13h – Théâtre Montaigne
Espace des Lettres – Ambassade de France au Liban – rue de Damas – Beyrouth

RSVP auprès de Géraldine Briand : geraldine.briand@diplomatie.gouv.fr ou au 01.42.02.08

The conference-debate was organized under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Patrice Paoli - French ambassador to Lebanon, by the French Institute, the Beirut Bar Association and the Lebanese Center for Human Rights on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

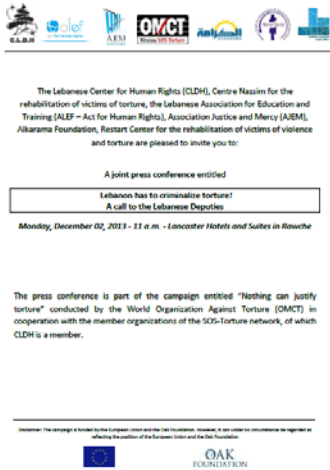
The panelists of the conference were: Ms. Elisabeth Zakharia Sioufi - Director of the Beirut Bar Association, Mr. Wadiah al-Asmar - Secretary General of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Nicolas Declercq - Divisionary Commissioner and attaché of Internal Security at the French Embassy, the Judge Raja Abi Nader, representative of the Ministry of Justice, Colonel Ziad Caed Bay - representative of Internal Security Forces, and the moderator of the conference was Dr. Nidal Jurdi - Representative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Panelists at the Conference-Debate

Among the attendees of the conference, there were a large number of representatives of the Internal Security Forces, General Security, and the Army. After the presentation of the participants of the conference, there was a heated debate between the participants and the attendees about torture in Lebanon.

- ***“Lebanon has to criminalize torture! A call to the Lebanese Deputies” December 02, 2013***



As part of the campaign entitled “Nothing can justify torture” conducted by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) in cooperation with the organizations of the SOS-Torture network, of which CLDH is a member, a joint press conference was organized on December 02, 2013. The joint press conference was entitled “*Lebanon has to criminalize torture! A call to the Lebanese Deputies*”. Its participants were: The Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), Centre Nassim for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, the Lebanese Association for Education and Training (ALEF - Act for Human Rights), Justice and Mercy Association (AJEM), Alkarama Foundation and Restart Center for the rehabilitation of victims of torture.

The speakers of the press conference called upon the Members of the Parliament to enact the draft law on torture criminalization that has been under study by the Law and Administration Committee of the Parliament since December 2012. They also called upon the Members of the Parliament to complete this process in the most timely and transparent manner especially if substantial changes are to be introduced to the initial proposal. The participants called upon this since Lebanon has ratified the Convention against Torture but has failed till now to legislate a comprehensive definition of the crime of torture and fails to provide appropriate punishment for the perpetrators of torture.



Participants at the joint press conference

Among the attendees of the joint press conference there were: embassy representatives, journalists, human rights activists and civil society representatives. Later on, the press conferences’ press release

got a good coverage by the Lebanese media (NNA, Al-Mustaqbal, Al-Hayat, Al-Anwar, Annahar, El-Nashra, Lebanon Files, etc).³

³ www.nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/17602/Civil-associations-call-upon-Lebanon-to-criminalize-torture
www.alanwar.com/article.php?categoryID=6&articleID=216362
www.alhayat.com/Details/578066
www.almustaqbal.com/storiesv4.aspx?storyid=597025
www.newspaper.annahar.com/article/88492
<http://www.elnashra.com/news/show/688911/جميعيات-اهلية-طالبت-النواب-بإقرار-قانون-تجريم-التعذيب>
<http://www.lebanonfiles.com/news/637400>



**Lebanon has to criminalize torture!
A call to the Lebanese Deputies**

As we approach the International Human Rights Day on December 10, our organizations join efforts to call again upon the Lebanese authorities to criminalize the practice of torture.

Lebanon ratified the Convention against Torture in 2000 and reaffirmed its resolve to combat torture when acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2008. However, the practice of torture still prevails.

Every year, hundreds of persons are tortured during the investigations or in detention places, for various reasons, and their lives remain forever altered by this traumatizing experience.

Curbing down the practice of torture in Lebanon will never achieve results as long as the perpetrators are not properly prosecuted and punished.

Right now, the Lebanese legislation does not include a comprehensive definition of the crime of torture and fails to provide for appropriate punishment for those who commit torture.

Our organizations call upon the Members of the Parliament in Lebanon to enact the draft law on torture criminalization that has been under study by the Law and Administration Committee of the Parliament since December 2012 in a timely manner. We call on them as well to complete this process in the most transparent way, especially if substantial changes are to be introduced to the initial proposal.

According to the Convention against Torture, the term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act to which a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.

Disclaimer: This campaign is funded by the European Union and The Oak Foundation. However, it is under no circumstances designed as reflecting the position of the European Union and The Oak Foundation.



In addition to criminalizing torture in order to put an end to this inhumane practice, the law needs to reinforce the rule of law. Creating a culture of impunity among state institutions will allow human dignity to be upheld by duty bearers.

Beirut, December 2, 2013

- Signatories:**
- Lebanese Center for Human Rights (LCHR)
 - Conde Nassim for the rehabilitation of victims of torture
 - ALHF - Act for Human Rights
 - Justice and Mercy Association (AJM)
 - Alkarama Foundation
 - Madad Center for the rehabilitation of victims of violence and torture
 - World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

This press conference is part of the campaign entitled "Nothing as justly torture" conducted by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT).

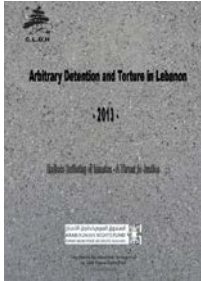
Disclaimer: This campaign is funded by the European Union and The Oak Foundation. However, it is under no circumstances designed as reflecting the position of the European Union and The Oak Foundation.



Press release of the press conference

The press release of the press conference can be seen on the following link: [Click](#)

- **Press Conference: “Arbitrary Detention and Torture in Lebanon: Endless Suffering of Inmates” and “The Truth in the case of the Alleged Spy Faysal Moqalled” July 18, 2013**



At this press conference (for which initial date was set to be June 26, 2013, but was moved for July 18, 2013 due to the security situation at that time in Lebanon), 2 reports were made public by the CLDH. The report entitled “Arbitrary Detention and Torture in Lebanon: Endless Suffering of Inmates”⁴ contains the latest findings of CLDH regarding these practices in 2011 and 2012 and it was written with the support of the Arab Human Rights Fund.

In this report, CLDH noted that:

66% of people who were arrested during 2011 and 2012 were complaining about torture and serious ill-treatments. In certain cases, detention conditions like prolonged detention of foreigners at the underground detention center of general security are a tantamount of torture.

Further on in the report it was noted that:

Torture is a common practice, if not encouraged, at least accepted by the Lebanese Justice system. Most of the persons who had been arrested and subjected to torture in 2011 and 2012 have complained to the investigating judge, and the latter did not take any action, neither to cancel the confessions nor to open an investigation into the allegations.

⁴ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4OjQ5YzYwOGM4YzY5NjEwMDC>



The other report that was published on the same day was entitled as “The Truth in the case of the alleged Spy Faysal Moqalled”⁵. For this report, CLDH made an in-depth study of the file of Faysal Ghazi Moqalled (sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of collaboration with Israel) and it gathered information that tends to prove that the Lebanese army intelligence services may have fabricated the “confessions” of Faysal Moqalled, under torture, at the Ministry of Defense.

The press conference was well attended and it sparked interest in the media as journalists from various newspapers were present at the press conference (The Daily Star, NNA, Lebanon Files, LBC⁶ etc.).

⁵ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4OjRkZjI1MTQ5YmJiMWI5YmI>

⁶ www.nna-leb.gov.lb/ar/show-news/45355
www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jul-19/224230-convicted-israel-collaborator-confessed-under-torture-ngo-says.ashx#axzz2ZT0yggUF

Press release

« Arbitrary detention and Torture in Lebanon:

Latest Findings of CLDH and the Truth in the Case of the Alleged Spy **Raysa Mawjied** »

Raysa Mawjied case has been concocted and illustrates perfectly the consequences of arbitrary detention and torture which still concern more than 60% of arrested people in 2011 and 2012 in Lebanon.

Today, the CLDH (the Lebanese Center for Human Rights) is making public two reports, one being an in-depth study of the case of an alleged spy, **Raysa Mawjied**, and the other one a report about the practices of arbitrary detention and torture.

Raysa Mawjied, arrested in February 2006 by Hezbollah for "collaboration with Israel", was detained five months in a Hezbollah prison and twenty months at the Ministry of Defense detention center before being granted access to a lawyer, at **Roumieh** Central Prison in 2008.

During his transfer to **Roumieh**, **Raysa Mawjied's** mental and physical conditions leave no doubt about the ill-treatments and torture he was subjected to. His teeth are broken, his fingers twisted and many traces on his body attest to the violence of questioning. His psychological situation attests to a serious trauma too.

Raysa Mawjied who admits his collaboration with Italian intelligence services, strongly denies any relationships with the Israeli **Mossad**. The confessions attributed to him and that he signed under torture at the Ministry of Defense are a farce. None of the accusations against him is well-founded.

For example, the flight to Tel-Aviv he was presumed to have taken from Paris does not exist. The identity he is accused to have used for that alleged travel belongs to a person who was wanted in Europe back to the date of the facts imputed (he would therefore have been arrested right away). Also, the last two weeks of June 2006 mentioned in the case appear to be a three-month long period. In 2006 he was accused to help Israeli attacks while being detained (he had been arrested five months before the war began).

However, in 2009 he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the military court without any other proof than his incoherent "confessions". He appealed the sentence but since late 2009 his trial keeps being postponed. The next session is due in March 2014.

Raysa Mawjied's story is one among many and illustrates the destructive consequences of procedure violations and torture.

In 2011 and 2012, the CLDH had been able to establish that 66% of people who were arrested during these two years were complaining about torture and serious ill-treatments. In certain cases, detention conditions like prolonged detention of foreigners at the underground detention center of general security are tantamount of torture.

However, most of torture cases happened during questioning by security services, most of them having recourse to this practice.

The practice of torture in Lebanon is generalized and still considered as a valid method of investigation and punishment in contradiction with the national law and international commitments of the country.

Torture is a common practice, if not encouraged, at least accepted by the Lebanese Justice system. Most of the persons who had been arrested and subjected to torture in 2011 and 2012 have complained to the investigating judge, and the latter did not take any action, neither to cancel the confessions nor to open an investigation into the allegations.

The security services did not do anything to prevent torture and continued to resort to this practice whenever they needed to get confessions or information from suspects, neglecting their role of material investigation.

To our knowledge, no investigation has ever been opened into torture allegations. Worse still, in 2011 and 2012, CLDH and **Al Karama** were sued for denouncing torture. The case filed by **Asal** movement against CLDH is still ongoing. The absence of investigation regarding allegations and the lawsuits against human rights organizations attest that the climate in Lebanon is not yet in favour of an abolition of torture.

Beirut, July 18, 2013

Press contact: **Wadih Al-Aqqas**: 70 990 730

Press release of the press conference

5. Participation of CLDH team members at other events

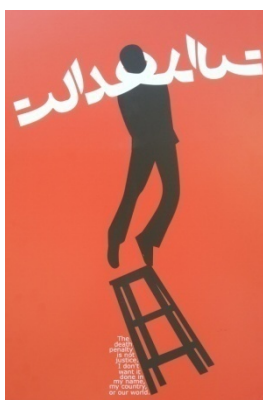
January 10, 2013 - The General Secretary of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, attended a meeting with former French Minister of Justice - Mr. Robert Badinter at the French Ambassadors' residence. The aim of the meeting was to discuss current Lebanese issues.

May 14, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a roundtable organized by Justice Without Frontiers in collaboration with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The roundtable was held by the registrar for the STL, Mr. Daryl Mundis, who addressed the NGOs to discuss the International Law and possible collaborations.

June 26, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a sit-in organized by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, which was held in front of the UN house (ESCWA). The sit-in was entitled as "Together against torture and sectarianism and fragmentation and for civil peace and not escape from impunity".

June 26, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, an event organized by ALEF - Act for Human Rights, which called on the Lebanese authorities to make every effort to banish the practice of torture in Lebanon.

June 27-28, 2013 - IRCT/Restart Center for Victims of Torture held a conference on the right of rehabilitation, which was attended by CLDH representatives.



On October 10, 2013 (World Day Against the Death Penalty), CLDH representative took part in a public call to the Lebanese authorities to abolish the death penalty. The event was organized AJEM (Justice and Mercy Association) in downtown Beirut.

November 28, 2013 - The General Secretary of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, attended a meeting with an advisory team from the Danish Police who have been working in Lebanon with border control management trainings since 2009. The scope of the meeting was to give the visiting delegation an insight - from a human rights perspective - on the challenges and possible areas of improvements for the Lebanese municipality police. Also, other relevant issues were covered on the meeting, such as: prison conditions, migrant workers and arbitrary detention.

December 13, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the Conference entitled "Palestine Refugees and Syrians in Lebanon - legal situation in the country", organized by UNRWA.

December 17, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the roundtable entitled “A Protection Mechanism against Arbitrary Arrest, Lengthy Pre-Trial Detention and Long Delays in Trial”. The event was organized by ALEF - Act for Human Rights in cooperation with Faculty of Law and Political Science at Notre Dame University.

6. Press releases

On **May 11, 2013**, a delegation of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) visited the President of Lebanon, General Michel Sleiman⁷, in order to thank him for his personal stand against the deportation of Syrian refugees and expose to him the ongoing concerns of the organization.

The following press release was issued after the meeting:



Press Release:

CLDH visits President Michel Sleiman

A delegation of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) visited today General Michel Sleiman, President of Lebanon, in order to thank him for his personal stand against the deportation of Syrian refugees and expose to him the current concerns of the organization.

CLDH raised with the President various issues such as:

- The importance given by the organization to the set up of the national independent commission for the enforces disappearances aiming at beginning the truth process regarding the issue of the disappeared in Lebanon ;
- The need to relocate the General Security underground detention center that represents inhuman detention conditions for the detainees and unacceptable work conditions for the agents ;
- The case of Nehmeh El Haj, sentenced to the death penalty on the basis of « confessions » signed while he was at the hands of the Syrian intelligence services and whose detention was considered as arbitrary by the UN working group on arbitrary detention. A report of CLDH detailing the case of Mr. El Haj was handed to the President;
- The case of Faysal Moqalled, sentenced to life imprisonment on the basis of unbelievable « confessions » that he reportedly signed under the torture of the Lebanese Army intelligence services at the Ministry of Defense. A detailed report about this case, showing the file's inconsistencies as well as the violations to which Faysal Moqalled was allegedly subjected was delivered by hand to the President.

Beirut, May 11, 2013

Press release - CLDH visits President Michel Sleiman

⁷<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xjbGRofGd4OjYwZGlyMGU2MWM2MTM3MTA>

On **May 21, 2013**, a delegation of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) also visited the Prime Minister Designate - Tammam Salam⁸ and exposed him to the ongoing concerns of the organization.

The following press release was issued after the meeting:



Press Release:

CLDH visits Prime Minister-designate Tammam Salam

A delegation of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) visited today Prime Minister – designate Tammam Salam and exposed to him the current concerns of the organization.

CLDH raised with the Prime Minister the decree aiming at setting an independent commission on enforced disappearance proposed by the Minister of Justice Chakib Cortbawi and pending the cabinet's approbation – as well as the ratification by Lebanon of the Convention for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearance.

CLDH also drew the attention of the Prime Minister on the importance of the draft laws on torture criminalization and on the set up of a national human rights Institute comprising the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on torture provided by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments (OPCAT) ratified by Lebanon in 2008.

Beirut, May 21, 2013

For more information : Wadiah Al-Asmar : 70/950780

[Press release - CLDH visits Prime Minister designate Tammam Salam](#)

⁸ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4OjU1NGE3NTVkNTIkMjE3ZWY>

7. Other Press releases

Among the aforementioned, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, made the following press releases:

February 12, 2013 - The Lebanese Center for Human Rights and Al-Karama issued a press release condemning and asking for a recall of a possible extradition of a Syrian army deserter, who was arrested by the Lebanese authorities. The press release can be read on the following link: [Click](#)⁹



Press Release

Soldier Tortures in Private Female Domestic Worker

A member of the Lebanese military has tortured a female domestic worker whom he suspected of stealing his service weapon and jewelry from his home.

The soldier initially identified several suspects, but then fifteen days after the theft he is alleged to have taken a female domestic worker – who had denied any contact with the missing items – to a house in the countryside accompanied by other individuals, and proceeded to hang the young girl upside down by her feet in the bathroom using handcuffs. He is also alleged to have subjected her to electric shocks during most of the night, as well as burns using a red hot knife, in order to force her to incriminate herself and admit guilt in the theft.

Despite her complaints, and with traces of torture on her body, the domestic worker was sentenced to one year in prison for theft, and her appeal in court was dismissed.

Worse yet, at the end of the young woman's trial in early 2013, her employer refused to pay for her plane ticket to return to her home country. The CLDH (Lebanese Center for Human Rights) financed her repatriation, a full ten months after she had served her sentence.

The CLDH requests that an investigation be launched in this matter, and that this member of the military be held accountable in a manner commensurate with the perpetrated acts. The Judiciary is requested to take all allegations of torture consistently and seriously, short of which egregious acts of this nature will continue.

Beirut, April 8, 2013

Press contact: Wadih Al-Asmar, Secretary General of CLDH: 70 950780

[Press release following a case of suspected torture case](#)¹⁰

⁹ http://en.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1046:lebanon-imminent-extradition-of-syrian-deserter-following-order-from-military-court-of-beirut&catid=26:communiqu&Itemid=131

Lebanon: Two weeks of hunger strike for Mr. Tarek Rabaa
Human rights organizations demand his immediate release

Mr. Tarek Rabaa has been on hunger strike for 2 weeks. The undersigned organizations demand his immediate release pending trial, which would effectively end the excessive period of pre-trial detention for which he has been held. Furthermore, we are extremely concerned by the continuation of his trial in front of the military court as well as by the lack of investigation into the alleged torture he might have been subjected to, and that our organizations raised in a press release in 2011.

Tarek Rabaa, a 43-year old Lebanese citizen, has been on hunger strike in Roumieh prison since 29 April 2013 to demand his release. He has been in pre trial detention since 2010 on charges of collaboration with Israel. His trial by the military court in Beirut is based on confessions allegedly extracted under torture at the Ministry of Defense.

In spite of the statement issued by our organizations on 8 November 2011, no investigation seems to have been opened into the allegations of torture and arbitrary detention inflicted to Mr. Rabaa.

Mr. Rabaa, an engineer at Alfa Telecom Company, was summoned to the Ministry of Defense for investigation on 12 July 2010 where he was reportedly tortured with electric shocks - additionally he was left standing during 20 days and slapped very severely on his ears. He was only allowed to see his sister - acting as his lawyer- 32 days after his arrest. According to available information, he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment while being held at the Ministry of Defense detention center for 108 days - before being transferred to Roumieh prison, where he is still detained.

During the investigation, Mr. Rabaa refused to sign most of the documents presented to him by the Lebanese army intelligence, but his full name (not his signature) was handwritten at the bottom of the pages and then presented to the military justice as his "confession".

His trial in front of the military court began on 7 February 2011 and is still ongoing, in the course of which the defense raised allegations of torture by providing forensic reports to the court. His next session will take place on 17 May 2013.

If proven, the above mentioned allegations represent serious violations of the Lebanese criminal procedure code¹ and of Lebanon's international commitments². In this case the undersigned organizations would consider that Mr. Rabaa is a victim of torture and arbitrary detention and should not only be immediately released, but the perpetrators should also be held accountable and brought to justice. Victims of torture must be ensured the right to an effective remedy for the psychological and physical pain inflicted to them, as well as the right to reparation with compensation and rehabilitation. Additionally, although Mr. Rabaa is suspect of collaboration with Israel however remains innocent until proven guilty by a court of law and by insuring his right to a fair trial and has the right to an effective remedy by a competent tribunal for acts violating his fundamental rights granted to him by the Lebanese Constitution.

¹ The Lebanese criminal procedure code notably provides a maximum delay of 48 hours for custody detention, the right for the suspect to remain silent and the cancellation of any confession extracted under torture.

² Lebanon is a state party to the International Covenant on civil and political rights that notably provides the rules for a fair trial and to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments that strictly prohibits torture.

The undersigned organization would also like to reiterate that the prosecution of civilians before the Military Court may constitute a serious breach to the right to a fair trial as referred to also in Principle No. 5 of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary. The undersigned organizations fully support the demand of Mr. Rabaa to be released pending his trial, hold the Lebanese authorities responsible of his physical and psychological safety and urge them once again to open an immediate, independent and thorough investigation into the alleged torture of Mr. Tarek Rabaa.

May 15, 2013

Signatories:

- Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
- Alkarama Foundation
- ALEF - Act for human rights
- Working Together for Human Rights (AEDH)
- Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT - France)
- Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)
- World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

Press release demanding the release of Mr. Tarek Rabaa¹¹

¹⁰ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xjbGRofGd4OjQzNzFINzBhM2JmY2I0MWU>

¹¹ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xjbGRofGd4OjExMGIwYmU3ODQxZDAzODg>

Lebanon: UN Special Rapporteur on Torture updated on Tarek Rabaa's situation

Investigate torture allegations, release Tarek Rabaa pending trial

5 June 2013

Tarek Rabaa, a Lebanese engineer detained since July 2010 on conspiracy charges, will again be brought before the military court next Friday, 7 June. Not only is he still detained without being found guilty close to three years after his arrest, but flaws such as the judiciary's failure to order investigations into the allegations of torture, which were raised repeatedly, cast doubt on the fairness of his trial. As his health situation continues to deteriorate, Alkarama and CLDH [reiterate their calls](#) to the Lebanese authorities to grant Tarek Rabaa his right to a fair trial and consider his immediate release pending trial. To support these demands, we informed the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture of Mr Rabaa's situation on 30 May 2013.

On 12 July 2010, Mr Rabaa was summoned to the Ministry of Defence and subsequently arrested - a valid arrest warrant was only issued a month later. Until his transfer to Roumieh Prison on 26 October 2010, he was reportedly repeatedly subjected to severe torture likely to have been carried out with the aim of extracting confessions from Mr Rabaa as he was asked to sign papers at the time.

Mr Rabaa was first brought before the military court on 7 February 2011. Now, more than two years later and close to three years after his arrest, his trial is still ongoing. In spite of allegations of torture raised as well before the investigating judge as in court, we have no knowledge of an inquiry being opened into these allegations, in complete disregard of Lebanon's international obligations under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment signed by the country in 2000. Without these investigations, it cannot be guaranteed that confessions extracted under torture are not eventually used against Mr Rabaa and that the alleged perpetrators will be held accountable.

We remain furthermore concerned about the excessive period of time for which he has been held in pre-trial detention so far as well as the serious flaws in the legal proceedings against him, including the fact that he is, as a civilian, tried before a military jurisdiction. Considering these different elements, Mr Rabaa's ongoing deprivation of liberty may amount to an arbitrary detention and constitute a further breach of his rights.

Tarek Rabaa's family informed Alkarama and CLDH that his health situation is continuously degrading and several incidents indicate that he does not receive the necessary medical care while in detention. Last September, for example, security forces interrupted his treatment against the advice of the medical staff present and he was taken back to his cell by force, as described in a medical report, which was provided to our organisations. Based on this as well as the excessive period Mr Rabaa spent in detention on remand so far, we support his demand for immediate release pending trial.

We reiterate that all persons have the right to fair legal proceedings in determination of the charges against them and that this includes the guarantee that statements extract under physical and psychological pressure are not used in court. As this cannot be ensured without investigations into the victim's allegations of torture, we urge the Lebanese authorities to open inquiries into all allegations raised before the competent bodies as is the case for Mr Rabaa. The next occasion to do so is the upcoming hearing this Friday, 7 June 2013, date at which the defence is also expected to again request his release pending trial.

Signatories:

- Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
- Alkarama Foundation

Un Special Rapporteur on Torture updated on Tarek Rabaa's situation¹²

¹² <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4Ojc3NDA3ZGU3ZmY2YWE3OWE>



Foreign women locked up in cages under Jdeideh Palace of Justice

CLDH calls upon the General Prosecutor and the Minister of Interior to immediately take action to end arbitrary detention and ill treatments taking place under Jdeideh palace of Justice, and holds them responsible for the physical and psychological safety of the detainees.

A team of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) visited today the facilities of Jdeideh Palace of Justice and was horrified to discover the conditions in which around 30 arrested migrant women are surviving.

Up to 6 detainees are detained in 6 square meter cells, kept by men guards, without ever seeing the sunlight, without being allowed to go out of their cells, without drinkable water and depending totally on their outside acquaintance to bring them food. If one of them is sick, the guards have to call the police station that has sent the detainee and get its approval to do anything. No doctor and no NGO never visit the place, according to the information gathered.

« We are waiting for their transfer to the General Security », one guard told us, « if one of them does not have food, we bring her some yogurt from our home». One lady from Bangladesh has allegedly been surviving like this for 11 days : « no one is bringing her food, so we give her something to eat from time to time », explains the keeper of the place.

According to available information, the detainees should not be held for more than 4 days (which is already too much), but some stay for up to one month. The absence of any control, from the security services or the judiciary, is blatant.

Countless violations of the Lebanese law and of the international commitments of Lebanon are taking place in Jdeideh and show once again the contempt of the Lebanese authorities towards migrant domestic workers and detainees in general.

Beirut, June 13, 2013

Foreign women locked up in cages under Jdeideh Palace of Justice¹³

¹³ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4OjQ2NGVhMjA3MTM4MzU4YzU>



Call to the French Minister of Interior Manuel Valls

Let Georges Ibrahim Abdallah return to Lebanon!

CLDH (Lebanese Center for Human Rights) calls upon the French Minister of Interior to sign without any delay the expulsion order of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah from the French territory. This expulsion order will allow the conditional release and the return to Lebanon of Mr. Abdallah, who has been incarcerated in France for 28 years.

Regardless of the substance of Mr. Abdallah's case, his prolonged imprisonment in France runs counter to common sense for several reasons:

- At the Judiciary level, Mr. Abdallah allegedly fulfils the conditions of a conditional release. At the political level, the time elapsed since the crimes he was accused of, should create the necessary conditions of serenity to allow such measure to be taken.
- The cost of the prison administration in France is of 2.39 billion Euros. In a country in the midst of an economic crisis, it would be tempting to think that the French state would seek to release as soon as possible a person who is not dangerous, but clearly expensive, for its people.
- Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, Lebanese militant, was arrested on October 24, 1984 in France. He has been sentenced in 1987 to life imprisonment for his complicity in diplomats' assassination in Paris. He could have been released since 1999.

Beirut, January 18, 2013

CLDH's call to release Georges Abdallah (detained in France)¹⁴

¹⁴ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xjbGRofGd40jQ0OTNIY2U2ZDQ3OWMzMzY>

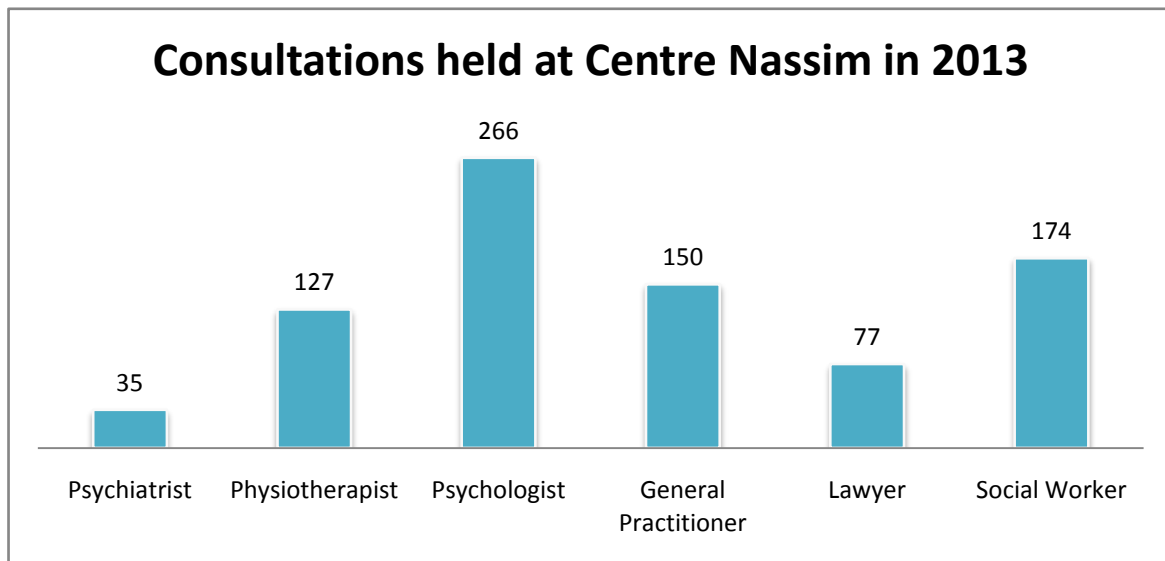
Centre Nassim for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture

Objective

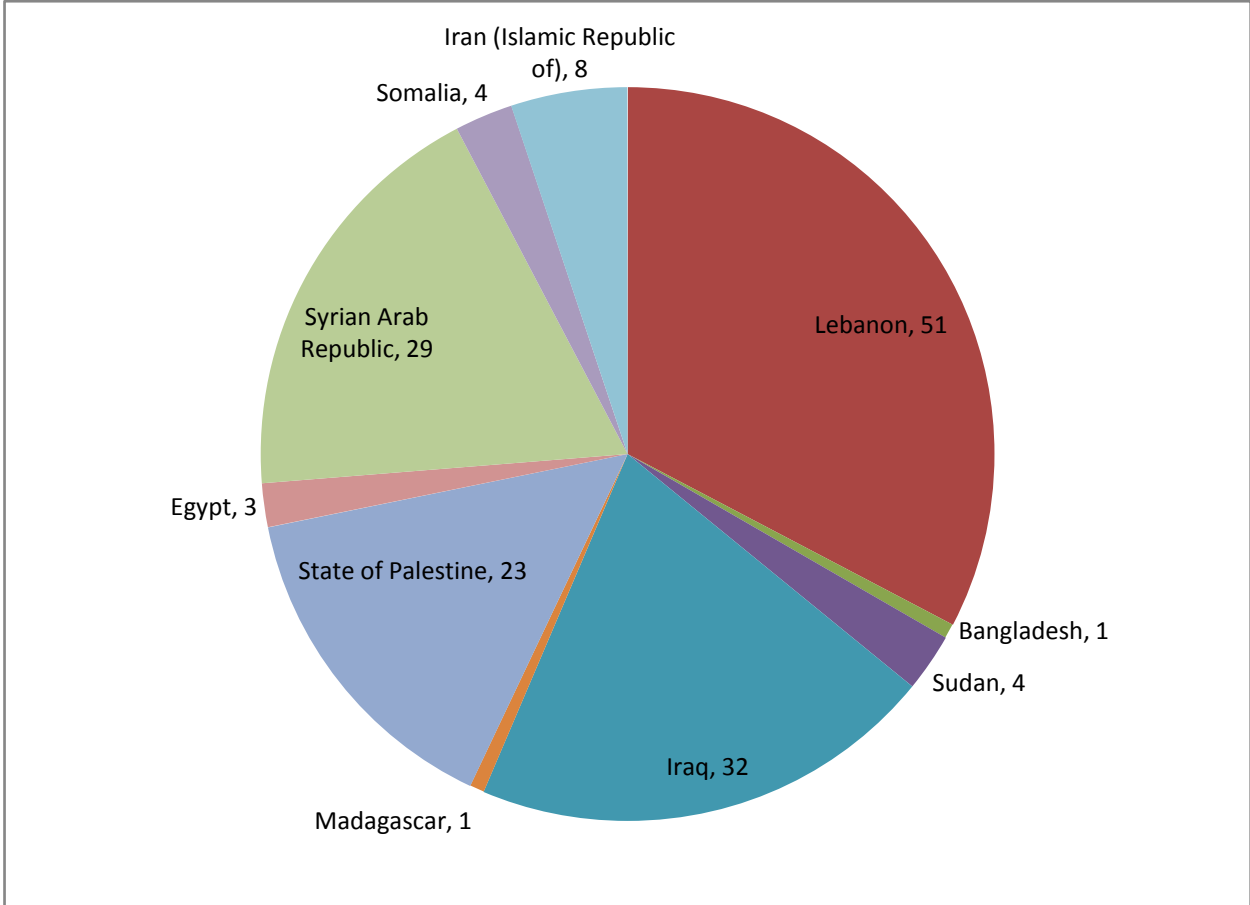
Offer and provide multi-disciplinary assistance to the victims of torture

1. Services

In 2013, 28 new beneficiaries availed to the services of Centre Nassim. In the meantime, Centre Nassim continued its support to 37 beneficiaries which had been registered in the previous years. In total, Centre Nassim dealt with 65 beneficiaries during the reporting period. In total, 829 consultations were held with the beneficiaries. The consultations were as following:

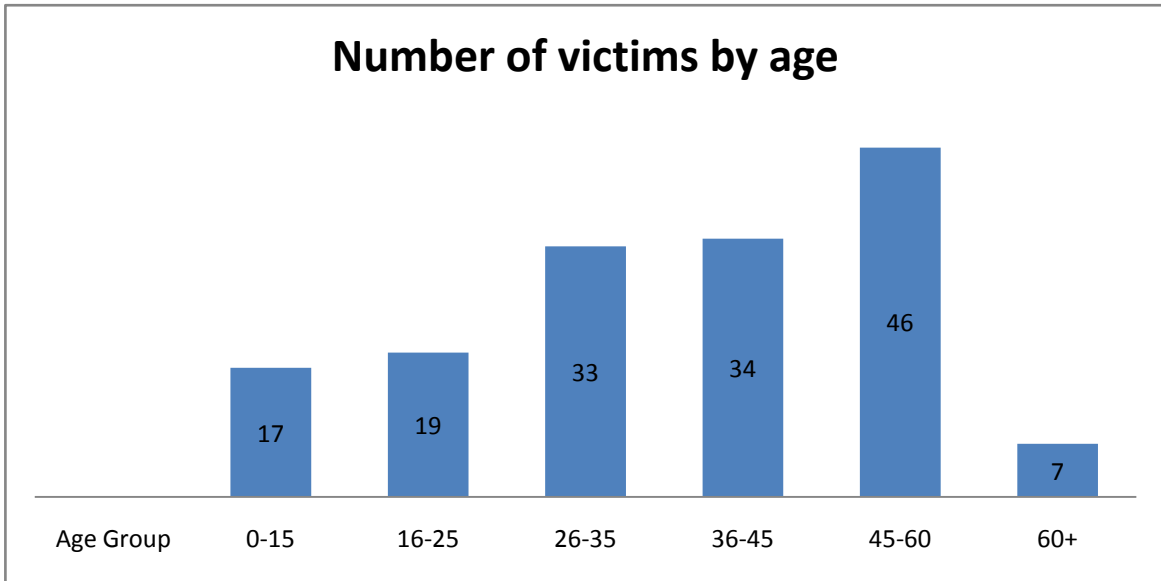


The nationalities and number of torture victims that were beneficiaries of Centre Nassim can be seen on the following chart:



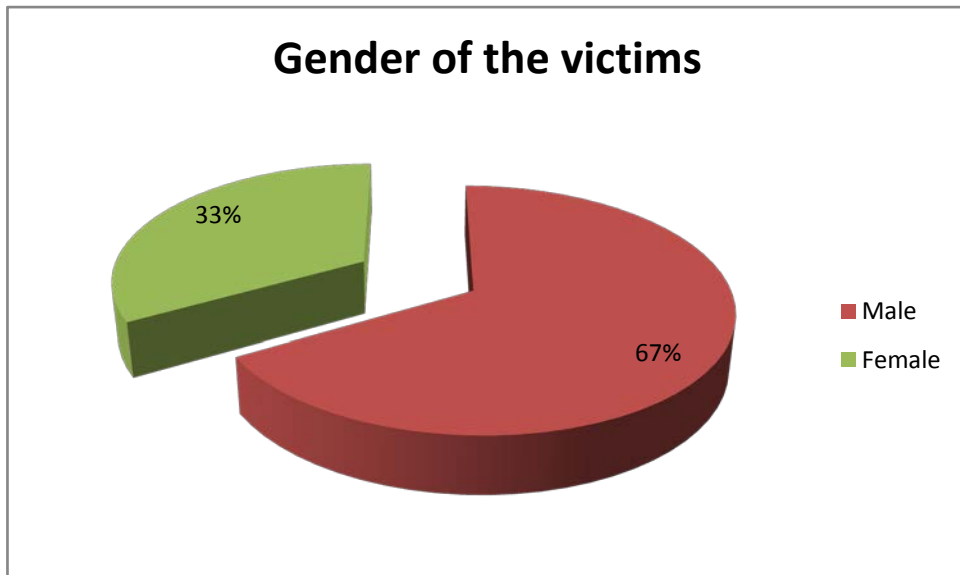
Nationalities and number of torture victims

The number of victims of torture, which were beneficiaries at Centre Nassim, by age, can be seen on the following chart:



Number of victims by age

The gender of the victims of torture that were beneficiaries at Centre Nassim can be seen on the following chart:



Gender of the victims

2. Trainings

In December 2013, Centre Nassim staff provided training to a new Libyan center for rehabilitation of victims of torture. The training was done with support of IRCT. The aims and objectives of the exchange program were:

- ✓ Acquire new knowledge on what a torture rehabilitation centre typically does, how it is structured and organized, types of beneficiaries, types of services offered based on beneficiaries' needs;
- ✓ Establish closer ties between IRCT members in the region



Training with Libyan team

3. New foreseen activities

As the Syrian crisis is getting worse by the day, thousands of persons are getting displaced from Syria into Lebanon. Among them are people that are victims of torture and their family members, who require specific assistance in relation with their medical, psychological, social and legal situation in Lebanon.

As a result of Centre Nassim's commitment to helping these vulnerable groups, as well as the increasing number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Centre Nassim reports that half of the newly registered beneficiaries, for 2013, to its services are Syrians.

Centre Nassim looks forward to expanding its capabilities for 2014 and introduce more beneficiaries to its services. At the end of 2013, UNVFVT granted Centre Nassim a special grant to cater the needs of this specific group.

Enforced disappearance

Objective

Support the families of disappeared and NGOs working with this issue, and contribute effectively to the establishment of truth and justice for all victims of Human Rights violations

Since 1996, CLDH works closely with the families of the disappeared, 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 resolve this issue and start a real national reconciliation process.

For this reason, CLDH is calling for improvement of the draft law on enforced disappearance and the missing, prepared by a number of NGOs.

In 2013, CLDH continued to be in the forefront of various activities undertaken in support of families of disappeared and working towards the establishment of truth and justice for all victims of Human Rights violations.

1. Events

During the reporting period, the following events were organized, co-organized or attended to by CLDH:

- **“Conference on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance” February 21, 22 2013**

The conference was organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearance (FEMED) and the Lebanese Center for Human Rights.

During the press conference, the participants invited the Lebanese authorities to ratify the “Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance”, which entered into force on December 23, 2010. Ratifying it and putting it into practice will be of great value for the families of the people that have been subjected to enforced disappearance as it defines the crime of enforced disappearance and it sets up a Committee on Enforced Disappearance, an innovative monitoring body with investigative powers.

The participants of the conference stressed that *“Enforced disappearance is not only a crime; it is an act that negates the very essence of humanity and is contrary to the deepest values of any society”*.

Further on it was stressed that *“Such practice (of enforced disappearance) cannot and should not be tolerated nor justified whether it is used to counter terrorism or fight organized crime or suppress legitimate demands concerning issues such as democracy, freedom of expression, or freedom of religion”*.

This event was a part of a project that was funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **“Fourth Euro - Mediterranean Conference of the Family Associations of the Disappeared on the subject “Enforced Disappearance, Truth and Fight against Impunity”” November 23, 2013**

The Euro - Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearance (FEMED), together with the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), the Association SOLIDE (Support of Lebanese InDetention And Exile) and the Committee of the Families of the Persons Kidnapped or Disappeared, organized a conference on November 23, 2013.

The conference shed a light on the work developed by the 26 associations affiliated to FEMED network working on the both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. The meeting also addressed the issue of the use of universal jurisdiction in the context of the fight against enforced disappearances and it highlighted the role of women in the processes of transitional justice.

The conference was attended by organizations from: Serbia, Algeria, Turkey, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and other countries. It was also attended by various Lebanese and International non-governmental organizations, local and international experts, judges, lawyers, journalists and representatives of national and international institutions.

The conference was covered by various news agencies (LBC, MTV, NNA¹⁵, etc)

¹⁵ <http://www.nna-leb.gov.lb/ar/show-news/65429/>



Some of the participants at the conference

2. Participation at events

April 11, 2013 - Organized by the Lebanese Center for Human Rights and SOLIDE (Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile), a sit-in was held at the Gebran Khalil Gebran garden in Beirut downtown in solidarity with the relatives of detainees in Syria.¹⁶

December 06, 2013 – CLDH representative participated in the event organized by UMAM Documentation and Research, and The Association of Former Lebanese Detainees in Syria, with focus on political detainees in Syria.

¹⁶www.lorientlejour.com/article/809679/detenus-libanais-en-syrie-huit-ans-de-sit-in-et-toujours-rien-.html

Migrant Workers, Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Objective

Raising awareness of the Lebanese society and authorities about the rights of migrants and refugees, strengthening and promoting the legal and social protection of migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees.

1. Individual cases follow-up

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights, which assists more than a hundred people each year in detention, is recognized for the competence of its team for legal aid. This recognition has led the organization to be more extensively consulted by migrant workers in Lebanon asking for help from the organization.

CLDH achieved satisfactory results by resolving more than three-quarters of cases presented to it.

The situation of Migrant Workers in Lebanon is in pretty dire condition. The existence of the “kafala” system as well as the negligence for basic Human Rights by the employers of Migrant Workers has put the Migrant Workers at the bottom of the society in Lebanon. The number of committed suicides by the Migrant Workers has been on a steady rise.

Using the Social Media, CLDH managed to complete 2 successful campaigns for collecting money for repatriation of detained women.

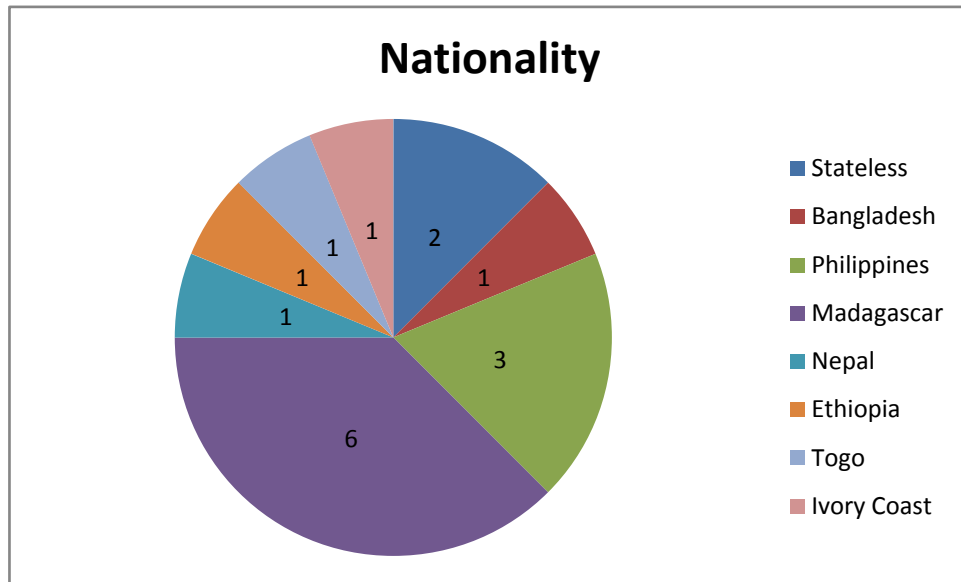
In the absence of legislation or practices that protect Migrant Workers, the interventions of the organization are of several types:

- Negotiations/Pressure on the employer - to recover the passport of the employee, to obtain permission from the employer for a change of employer, or to let the employee leave the country;
- Administrative procedures - Regularization papers, registering to the Ministry of Labor, registering to the General Security;
- Legal Assistance - Removal of false complaints, defense in courts...

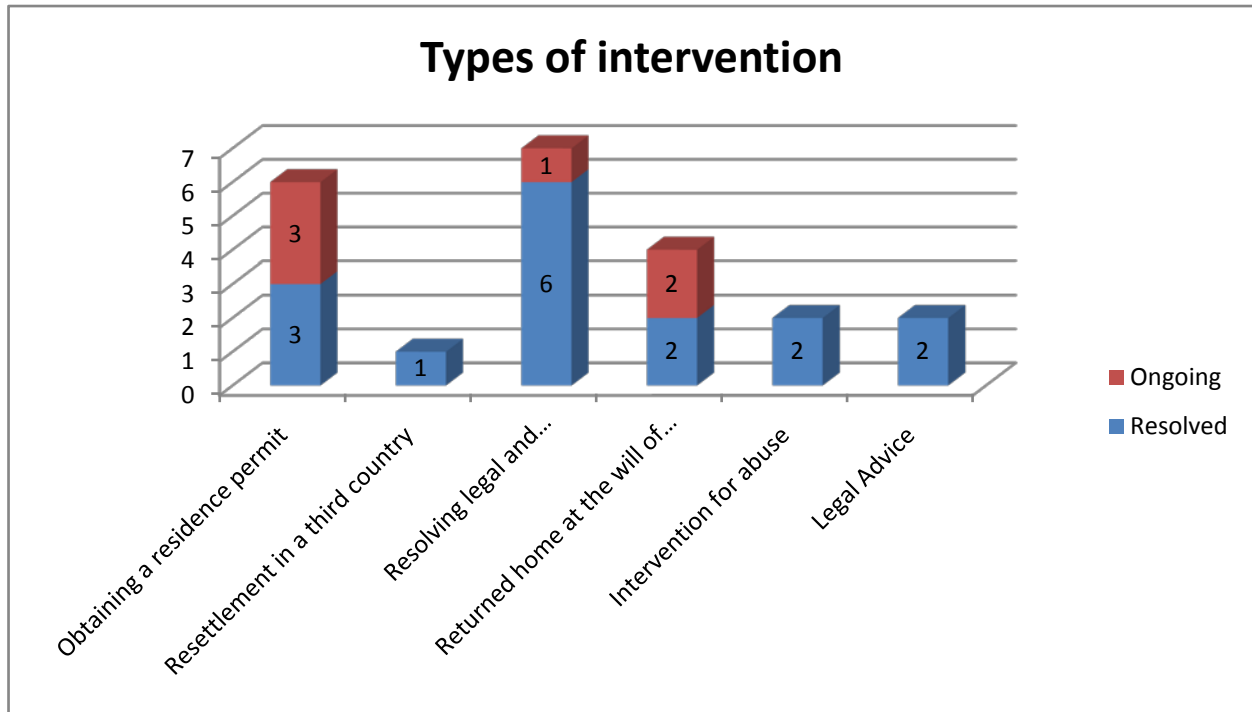
In total, 16 people at the risk of becoming slaves were assisted by CLDH in 2013 thanks to a grant of the organization Working together for Human Rights. These were brought into contact with the organization in several ways:

- Referred by community leaders;
- Referred by neighbors for abuse cases;
- Reported by relatives;
- Referred by other NGOs and the ICRC

The nationality of assisted cases was as following:



Types and results of intervention:



2. Report

On December 18, 2013 a report was published entitled “Syrian Workers in Lebanon” with the support of the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon. The report was published based on interviews done by CLDH staff. In total 27 workers were interviewed who had been in Lebanon between three months and seventeen years. A special questionnaire was developed and used for the interviews. It consisted of five main points: personal data (official status and information about their arrival), working conditions, living conditions, racism and their hope for the future.

Apart from the interviews, other sources of information were used, such as press articles, official reports and legal documents.

The report can be downloaded on the following link: [Click](#)¹⁷

¹⁷ <http://bit.ly/1mg8v7D>

3. Events

- Children and youth speak up against discrimination! March 23, 2013



On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Discrimination, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights and the Anti-Racism Movement in Lebanon, organized a press conference entitled “Children and youth speak up against discrimination!”

The Secretary General of CLDH, Mr. Wadih al-Asmar, opened the press conference and highlighted the acts of discrimination in Lebanon, from discrimination based on skin color to the ones based on social status, discrimination against women who cannot pass citizenship to their children if the marriage is with a foreigner. He also denounced the “kafala” system, which paves the way for “modern slavery”.

I cannot get Lebanese nationality even though my mother is Lebanese. I feel betrayed - Lynn

I get insulted on the streets because I am black; yet, I am a human like them. I am afraid to go out because I don't have papers, even though I am born in Lebanon. - Hiba

The press conference later proceeded with testimonies of youth from various national origins that feel discriminated in Lebanon.

The press conference got excellent media coverage, as it was covered in various newspapers, as well as in the evening news on TV.¹⁸

¹⁸ www.iloubnan.info/societe/77776/Les-jeunes-et-les-enfants-sexpriment-contre-la-discrimination
www.assafir.com/Article.aspx?EditionID=2420&ChannelID=58233&ArticleID=2502
www.nna-leb.gov.lb/ar/show-news/25897

- **World Refugee Day “Violations against refugees should end!” June 21, 2013**



On the occasion of the “World Refugee Day”, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights and the Anti-Racism Movement held a press conference entitled “Violations against refugees should end!”. The press conference was on June 21, 2013 at the Nasawiya Café.

The press conference was open to the public and it included testimonies of refugees. The press conference served as a reminder and as a call to Lebanese authorities to take action toward changing the treatment of refugees in Lebanon.

During the conference it was noted that since Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Convention on Refugees status, refugees from Iraq, Sudan and other countries are treated as illegal migrants, thus, preventing them from working, circulating freely and that sometimes they are subjected to arrests and torture.

- **“Human Rights Summer Camp for Children” July 15 - July 31, 2013**



As part of its “End Racism and Modern Day Slavery” program, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights with the support of TRACE Health Care Management, organized a summer camp “Human Rights Summer Camp for Children”.

The summer camp aimed at providing the children with basic human rights education, whilst opening their eyes to the World through improvement of their language skills, while having fun and enjoying their summer vacation.

The summer camp involved over 30 children of various nationality (Sudanese, Lebanese, Syrian, Armenian and children that didn’t have any nationality), for the duration of 2 weeks (15th July to 31st July 2013).

During the summer camp, the children were introduced to various Human Rights topics through different activities and exercises.

The following topics were included:

- Discrimination;
- Democracy;
- Environment and Health;
- Gender Equality;
- Family Education;
- Poverty and Social Exclusion



Summer Camp activity

4. Participation at other events

During the reporting period, CLDH team members participated to the following events in relation to Migrant Domestic Workers', Refugees' and Asylum Seekers' rights:

February 07, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the release of "World Report" by Human Rights Watch.

April 16, 2013 - The Director of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Ms. Marie Daunay, attended a meeting with EU, Civil Society Organizations, social partners and local authorities. The meeting was at the premises of the Delegation of the European Union. The aim of the meeting was to exchange views of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon and how to respond to the needs of the affected population and communities.

April 28, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the parade organized by KAFA, Insan Association, Anti-Racism Movement and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, which marked the International Workers Day. The goal of the parade was to raise awareness of the rights of Migrant Workers in Lebanon, and to ask for ending the Sponsorship System.

April 29, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a follow-up meeting for the "National Technical Task Force to end Violence against Women in Lebanon" which was organized by ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the International Medical Corps.

October 07, 2013 – CLDH attended the launch of "Gender and Sexuality Resource Center" by the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality and ABAAD.

October 23, 2013 – CLDH team attended "Some facts on Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon 2012-2013" - event organized by Insan Association, where a booklet of the same name was published.

November 06, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a meeting with Ambassador Jerzy Pomianowski - Executive Director of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED). The meeting and the roundtable that followed it were with purpose to present the work of EED and to discuss the situation of democratic institutions and human rights in Lebanon.

November 12-15, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a training organized by ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality.

December 19, 2013 – CLDH team attended the closing event of the campaign "Alla Ysa'eda, Ma Betsa'eda" - event organized by ABAAD - Resource Center for Gender Equality, with focus on Women rights in Lebanon.

5. *Teach in*

July 21, 2013 - Training with children and teenagers in Sainte Famille School summer camp in Aaqora, with a focus on racism and discrimination.



Teach in at Sainte Famille School summer camp in Aaqora

6. A hunger strike at CLDH premises

May 27, 2013 - A refugee family from Eastern Africa decided to hold a hunger strike to demand their resettlement to a third country. CLDH hosted them at its premises since “refugees who protest in front of UNHCR are regularly arrested” - explained Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, Secretary General of CLDH.



A future for Lamis!

Refugee parents on hunger strike

Beirut – May 27, 2013 – A UNHCR-recognized African refugee couple today began an open-ended hunger strike to demand their resettlement in a third country where their daughter will finally be granted a future.

Lamis, 4 years old, was born to a Sudanese father and a Somali mother. She does not have any nationality or legal status in Lebanon. Her father, Muhammad, 41 years old, arrived to Lebanon in the 90's, fleeing persecution in Sudan. He was arrested several times for illegal entry and is still traumatized. Her mother Giql, 30 years old, orphan, fled Somalia when she was a child. She has been a victim of slavery in Lebanon and has never known anything else except suffering and misery.

Lamis is neither Somali nor Sudanese, she is simply stateless. She will never have legal status in Lebanon. The Lebanese Law does not provide for this. She has no opportunity of studying, since she faces the risk of being arrested because she does not have papers. Discrimination, exploitation and poverty - it is the future of Lamis if no solution is found for this family.

« I am afraid she will suffer like me », sobs Giql, recalling bitterly the years she spent working without ever enjoying her childhood.

« After all these years of suffering, our happiness is gone; our sole purpose now is to give our daughter a future », adds Muhammad.

The only solution for Lamis is a resettlement in another country, organized by the UNHCR. For the moment, no country has accepted them yet. The parents of Lamis cannot take it anymore; they don't see any other solution than to begin an open-ended hunger strike until a solution is found «at least for Lamis» they beg. « We would even accept that she is sent without us in a country that would protect her rights ».

Despite the fatigue and years of their lives ruined by suffering, they cling to the hope that a country will open its doors to them.

CLDH (Lebanese Center for Human Rights) that is following the case of this family - hosts them in its premises for their hunger strike, not only to show the support of the organization to their protest, but also to prevent further violation of their rights. « Refugees who protest in front of UNHCR are regularly arrested. We prefer that their protest takes place in the safety of our office», explains Wadih Al-Asmar, Secretary General of CLDH.

For more information : Wadih Al-Asmar, 70 950 780.

Press release - A future for Lamis! Refugee parents on hunger strike¹⁹

¹⁹ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xibGRofGd4OjEzYzk0YjQ5ZWUwNTVhNDE>



The refugee family on hunger strike

You can watch a video testimony of the refugee parents on the following link: [Click](#)²⁰

7. Other public stances

June 13, 2013 - A team of CLDH visited the facilities of Jdeideh Palace of Justice and was horrified to discover the conditions in which around 30 arrested migrant women were surviving. Following the visit, CLDH issued a press release (page 21 of this report).

June 26, 2013 - For the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, CLDH started an online petition ([click to sign it](#)) calling for action against the detention center used by the General Security (the service in charge of immigration and foreigners' issues in Lebanon), which is located in an underground parking lot under a bridge in Beirut. CLDH strongly protests against such inhumane conditions (6 detainees living in 6 square meter cells, without access to drinkable water, without access to sunlight and fresh air, etc), where the migrants await for their repatriation.

²⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XN9x8kQT2IQ>



Violations of women, migrants and refugees' rights in Lebanon:

Please take action against these inhuman practices – sign and share:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Lebanon_Foreigners_can_not_continue_being_buried_alive/?copy

For the moment, the petition gathered only 300 signatures. We need you to have the voice of the victims heard. We need much much more signers to protest against so serious violations of human rights.

Hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are kept every year in Lebanon in an underground parking lot under a bridge of Beirut, used as a detention center by the General Security, the service in charge of immigration and foreigners' issues in Lebanon.

Arrested for various reasons, they wait for their repatriation to their country of origin or their release in Lebanon.

Every year, many of them are believed to be forcibly deported to their country of origin in contradiction with their rights. For example, migrant domestic workers are deported without having taken their salaries or after having been abused and prevented from filing lawsuit against the perpetrators; refugees and asylum seekers are forcibly deported to their country of origin, so on and so forth.

The conditions in this detention place are unacceptable and a tantamount of torture: the detainees don't see the sunlight or breathe natural air for weeks, months or even sometimes more than a year of detention. They are not allowed to meet their lawyers and there is no judiciary supervision of their unlimited administrative detention that is illegal since not provided for by law.

The petition will be handed over to the authorities on June 26, on the occasion of the international day in support of victims of torture.

Thank you

Petition started by CLDH²¹

²¹ <https://docs.google.com/a/cldh-lebanon.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=Y2xkaC1sZWJhbm9uLm9yZ3xjbGRofGd4OjFjYjQxMjgwYWlyZWl4YjY>

8. Other activities

On December 25, 2013 a “Santa Day” was organized at the CLDH’s office. 34 children accompanied by their parents, shared moments of joy and happiness with storytelling and gifts distribution. The children were of various age and nationalities. It was a chance for the children from the Summer Camp to see each other again, as well as get introduced to new children and make new friendships.



Santa Day at CLDH

Overview of the Human Rights situation, capacity building and networking

Objective

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

During the reporting period, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights continued to compile a daily press review, gathering all articles on human rights issues as published in the Lebanese press.

With the support of MEPI (Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative) and as a part of the project “Media Monitoring in Lebanon to Promote Democracy and Human Rights”, three workshops were organized in 2013 and a new website was launched.

1. Website

The website that was launched as part of the project “Media Monitoring in Lebanon to Promote Democracy and Human Rights” became fully operational at the start of the year. Press review website was a practical evolution of the press review blog that was used by CLDH. The website as of December 2013 had more than 90.000 views and more than 3.000 articles posted online. But due to technical problems, the website was in the process of revamping at year end.

2. Social Media

During this period, CLDH was active on several Social Medias. A new Fan Page was created, which, at the end of 2013 displayed 520 “likes”. CLDH group is also active with more than 1800 members, while the Twitter account has 437 followers. New LinkedIn, Foursquare, Google+ and Causes profiles were created.

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights regularly used the growing power of Social Medias to promote Human Rights values. Using the Social Medias, CLDH managed to complete 2 successful campaigns for collecting money for repatriation of detained women.

3. Report

On March 28, 2013 a report was published entitled **“Civil and Political Rights in Lebanon in 2012”** with the support of Arab Human Rights Fund. The report’s aim was to assess as much as possible the compliance by the Lebanese State with its commitments toward the protection and promotion of civil and political rights, reporting both advancements and violations in this field. The report can be downloaded on the following link: [Click](#)²²

4. Workshops and Trainings

- **“Human Rights, Ethics & Editorial Management for Journalists” March 28, 2013**

On March 28, 2013 a workshop was organized entitled **“Human Rights, Ethics & Editorial Management for Journalists”** as part of the project **“Media Monitoring in Lebanon to Promote Democracy and Human Rights”** which was supported by MEPI.

During the workshop, which was attended by dozen journalists, ways of strengthening journalism standards and discussion of the following themes took place:

- The arrest of Michel Samaha and its media coverage;
- Human Rights standards and approach for reporting;
- Identification of the challenges for a free and critical journalism;
- Impacts of the media on Human Rights;
- Ethical standards and codes of conducts.

²² <http://bit.ly/1gzbs3P>



Some of the participants of the workshop

- **Training entitled “Human Rights in the Media” May 09 and 15, 2013**

On May 09 and 15, 2013 two trainings were organized entitled “Human Rights in the Media” as part of the project “Media Monitoring in Lebanon to Promote Democracy and Human Rights” which was supported by MEPI.

The trainings focused on “Informed Journalism” as it plays fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights. During the training, the participants developed their knowledge of human rights standards and acquired new skills and techniques in the field of human rights reporting.

The trainings were aimed on journalism graduates, people with career in the media and press officers for NGOs.

5. Participation at events

March 04, 2013 - The Secretary General of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, held a meeting with Mr. Štefan Füle - Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy.

April 16-17, 2013 - The Secretary General of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, attended the EIDHR (European Institute for Democracy and Human Rights) forum in Brussels.

April 22, 2013 - CLDH attended the 4th LAU NGO fair at LAU Beirut Campus.

September 12, 2013 – CLDH attended the launch of a report entitled “Lebanon’s Legacy of Political Violence: A Mapping of Serious Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, 1975 - 2008” by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), the University Saint - Joseph, and the Center for the Study of the Modern Arab World.

November 15, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a consultation meeting with civil society organizations, social partners, professional organizations and local authorities. The aim of the meeting was to present and discuss the implementation of the EU-Lebanon Action Plan 2013, as well as the programming exercise of the Development Cooperation for the period 2014-2016.

November 21, 2013 - The Secretary General of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar, together with the EMHRN (Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network) attended meetings with Mrs. Elsa Fenet - Counselor, Head of the Political and Economic Section Delegation of the European Union, Mr. Michel Moussa - Chair of the Human Rights Commission of the Parliament of Lebanon and General Pierre Salem - Advisor of the Minister of Interior.

December 10, 2013 - Mr. Wadih Al-Asmar - The Secretary General of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights gave a lecture on “Media Coverage of Human Rights and the Positive Obligation of States: Awareness of the Unacceptable” at the Université Saint-Esprit De Kaslik (USEK).

December 10, 2013 - CLDH representative attended the ceremony celebrating the “International Human Rights Day” and “International Anti-Corruption Day”. The event was organized by the Lebanese Parliament in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Middle East Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

December 11, 2013 - CLDH representative attended a consultation meeting with Mr. Hugues Mingarelli - Managing Director of the European External Action Service for North Africa, the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran & Iraq. The aim of the meeting was to discuss with civil society organizations and EU-Lebanon partnership in the framework of the 4th Association Committee.