



1- Executive Summary:

Between 2021 and 2025, Lebanon's governance crisis deepened amid economic collapse and the pandemic. Corruption and state failure to uphold human rights have become increasingly evident, as reported by CLDH.

Key violations include suppression of free expression—seen in violent crackdowns on protests and dissent—as well as the deportation of Syrians, breaching non-refoulement obligations. The Kafala system continues to enable forced labor and abuse of migrant workers, while arbitrary detention, torture, and a lack of judicial independence persist.

Despite the 2018 adoption of the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared, little progress has been made. Torture remains widespread and unchecked. A restrictive media law and growing constraints on civil society further undermine freedoms.

These patterns highlight a systemic governance failure and the urgent need for reforms to meet Lebanon's human rights obligations.

2- Methodology:

All information provided in the report is first-hand information based on discussions with victims of HR violations. Full reports can be accessed [here](#).

3- Progress on the UPR 2nd Cycle:



A- Freedom of expression, the right to life, liberty and security of protesters

Freedom of expression

Freedom of opinion and expression in Lebanon continues to face serious restrictions, shaped by political, sectarian, and legal dynamics. The country's legal framework enables limitations on speech, with recent developments worsening the situation.

The latest draft of the media law threatens press freedom by criminalizing defamation of public officials, sectarian speech, and content deemed offensive to national unity, religious groups, or the president. These vague provisions allow for broad interpretation and suppression of dissent.

Journalists, activists, comedians, and content creators frequently face harassment, threats, and arbitrary censorship. Authorities often justify such restrictions under the guise of protecting national security or preventing sectarian conflict, effectively silencing critical voices and deterring discussion of sensitive political issues. This indirect censorship violates the right to free expression and weakens Lebanon's commitment to democratic values and open media.

Additionally, repression of LGBTQIA+ rights intensified in 2022 and 2023. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities banned events and public gatherings organized by LGBTQIA+ groups. These bans coincided with a surge in attacks against community events and individuals, resulting in documented injuries. Often carried out by non-state or extremist actors, these attacks were fueled by political and societal hostility, highlighting the dangerous environment for marginalized communities in Lebanon.

Throughout the reporting period, CLDH has issued [individual](#) and [joint statements](#) in support of LGBTQIA+ individuals attacked in 2023; The center is also a part of the Freedom of Expression coalition (FoE) that also denounced the continuous and growing attacks against [journalists](#), [academics](#), [comedians](#) and [activists](#) who were silenced, detained and/or extradited on the basis of what they said or wrote, infringing upon their right to freedom of speech.

CLDH has also participated in a [Press Conference](#) in March 2025, organized in response to the campaigns targeting independent media outlets in Lebanon and the lawsuits filed against them, tackling the importance of halting investigations with journalists in front of the Public Prosecution.

Recommendations:



- Amend or repeal laws criminalizing insult, slander, and defamation, particularly where it is being used to prosecute activists, journalists, and critics of the government. The laws should be reformed to ensure they are not used to silence dissent or stifle free speech.
- Implement stronger protections for journalists, including clear legal provisions to safeguard them from harassment, intimidation, or arbitrary detention. Ensure that those who threaten or attack journalists are held accountable.

B- Promotion and protection of the rights of refugees

Syrian refugees in Lebanon have faced escalating restrictions and discriminatory treatment. Policies and rhetoric have increasingly undermined their rights, safety, and dignity.

Between 2021 and 2025, Syrian refugees in Lebanon were subjected to growing discriminatory practices, including curfews and mobility restrictions imposed by several municipalities. These local decrees banned Syrian nationals from leaving their homes during certain evening hours, despite lacking any legal basis in national law—clearly violating their fundamental rights to liberty and freedom of movement.

In addition to restrictions on movement, refugees were subjected to a range of measures aimed at limiting their ability to work and live freely. These included intensified administrative procedures, targeted crackdowns, and public campaigns, both political and media-driven, that fueled hate speech and incited violence against them. The environment became increasingly hostile, with a noticeable rise in violence and intimidation.

Furthermore, there was a marked escalation in forced deportations carried out by security agencies, accompanied by pressures that effectively forced refugees to leave the country. This included tightening conditions in host communities and policies that left many with no viable options other than attempting dangerous journeys by sea.

During the 3rd UPR cycle, recommendations 150.272, 150.106, 150.29, 150.13, 150.123, 150.265, and 150.266 were issued. Of these, only recommendation 150.272 was supported by Lebanon, while 150.29 received a mixed response (supported/noted), and the rest were noted. However, none of these recommendations have been implemented to date.

Recommendation: Immediately revoke discriminatory municipal curfews and align local refugee policies with Lebanon’s international human rights obligations under the ICCPR and the 1951 Refugee Convention.



C- Promotion and protection of the rights of migrants

Despite calls for reform, the Kafala system remains a root cause of systematic abuse against migrant domestic workers. Many continue to face wage withholding, passport confiscation, sexual and physical abuse, and arbitrary confinement. The 2024 war exacerbated these vulnerabilities, leaving many workers stranded without assistance.

During the 3rd cycle recommendations 150.271, 150.236, 150.262, 150.270, 150.273 were all supported by the Lebanese state, however they were not implemented.

Recommendation: Abolish the Kafala system and adopt a unified labor law that guarantees equal protections and rights for all workers, including domestic and migrant workers.

During this reporting cycle, CLDH implemented several initiatives:

- Facilitated roundtables and awareness campaigns on torture prevention and migrant worker rights.
- Provided legal and logistical support for the voluntary repatriation of migrant domestic workers.
- Issued periodic briefs and public statements highlighting emerging human rights violations in Lebanon.

D- Access to Justice, Right to fair trial & Independence of the judiciary

Prisoners in Lebanon face significant barriers to justice, including delayed trials and prolonged pretrial detention. Authorities often fail to transport detainees to court, citing a lack of vehicles—yet this is applied inconsistently, infringing on the right to a fair and timely trial.

Many detainees experience extended detention due to delayed hearings and the misapplication of sentencing calculations. Despite a Cassation Public Prosecution circular stating that one prison month equals 20 days, some detention centers still calculate it as 30, unlawfully extending imprisonment. Additionally, prisoners often remain detained after completing their sentences due to unresolved file reports.

Administrative fees are inconsistently applied, with some courts waiving them and others imposing fees that many cannot afford. Execution of arrest warrants, deportations, and indictment filings are



often delayed for years, extending detention unlawfully. Bail requests are frequently rejected without justification, and case files remain untouched unless a hearing is scheduled.

Judicial processing varies by region—cases in Beirut move faster, while those in Mount Lebanon face severe delays. Minors are increasingly detained in unsuitable military facilities, where they lack access to appropriate legal and psychological support, violating international standards.

The judiciary also suffers political interference, as seen in the Beirut Blast investigation, which has faced repeated obstruction. A 2020 draft law on judicial independence remains stalled in parliament, undermining efforts to ensure accountability.

In response, CLDH has led targeted advocacy through stakeholder meetings, roundtables, and research-based campaigns. This includes an action plan for judicial independence, a position paper, and a detailed report on the Beirut Blast case—efforts aimed at driving systemic reform and upholding the rights of detainees in Lebanon.

Recommendations:

- Enforce strict timelines for court hearings and ensure accountability for unjustified delays.
- Establish legal safeguards to prevent arbitrary detention and ensure all deportation cases comply with non-refoulement obligations under the Convention Against Torture.

E- Missing and enforced disappearances

Between April 2021 and April 2025, Lebanon saw key but limited developments in addressing the legacy of missing persons and enforced disappearances from the civil war and subsequent conflict. Despite the 2018 adoption of Law No. 105, which established the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared, progress has stalled due to institutional and political obstacles.

The Commission, formally appointed in 2020, began initial coordination with civil society and the ICRC—who had collected over 3,000 DNA samples from families. However, by mid-2022, the Commission became largely inactive due to lack of funding, office space, member resignations, and political interference. As of 2024, it remains non-operational.

Civil society and international organizations have kept the issue alive. In August 2021, the ICRC launched the “Missing Persons Lebanon Community.” Amnesty International held a major



regional event in August 2023 and renewed calls for truth on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. Lebanon's abstention in a 2023 UN vote to establish a body on Syrian disappearances drew heavy criticism.

Following the Assad regime's collapse in late 2024, rebel forces uncovered prison records in Sednaya, including the "Book of Death" listing around 29,000 executions. Among the survivors was Ali Hassan Ali, a Lebanese citizen detained since 1985. This triggered renewed calls for accountability in Lebanon.

The Lebanese government has since initiated limited cooperation with Syria to trace detainees and repatriate survivors, but progress remains slow and politically uncertain.

CLDH has been at the forefront of the advocacy for truth, justice, and institutional reform regarding enforced disappearances in Lebanon.

- **Engagement with the National Commission:** CLDH attends meetings with the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared to push for its activation.
- **Forum for the Missing:** CLDH is part of a civil society forum working to operationalize the Commission and propose qualified, independent candidates free from political influence.
- **Legal and Policy Advocacy:** CLDH contributed to drafting Law No. 105 and continues to advocate for its implementation.
- **Support and Rehabilitation:** Through Centre Nassim, CLDH provides psychological, legal, and social support to torture survivors and families of the disappeared.
- **Public Awareness:** CLDH raises awareness through media outreach, and by commemorating the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances—continuing to call for state action and accountability.

Recommendations:

- o **Immediate Activation of the National Commission:** With the current members' mandate expiring in July 2025, appointing new, qualified, and independent members is urgent. The Commission must prioritize collecting data from security agencies and pressuring political authorities to disclose all available information they might have.



F-Torture in Lebanon

Lebanon ratified the UN Convention Against Torture and enacted Law No. 65/2017 criminalizing torture. However, impunity for torture remains widespread, and implementation mechanisms remain weak. During the reporting period, multiple credible cases of torture were reported in security and detention facilities.

A particularly alarming case was the death of a 30-year-old Syrian refugee, who died on 31 August 2022 after being severely tortured at the State Security's Tebnin branch. CLDH Legal team worked on his case and were able to acquire, for the first time in Lebanon a court decision from the court of cassation [ratifying](#) a decision implementing the provisions of Law 65/2017.

CLDH's team followed up closely on this case publishing a [statement](#) urging authorities to broaden the investigation scope of Bashar Al Saud's case and achieve justice, and denouncing the Permanent Military Court in Beirut's latest ruling that ignored all the previous findings of the indictment regarding the death of Bashar from torture, on November 1st, 2024 in both [joint](#) and [private](#) statements highlighting the gaps in the ruling and asking for justice and accountability.

Despite their 2019 appointment, the NHRC and CPT remain inactive due to a 2021 legal amendment (Law 273/2022) tying their launch to unissued organizational decrees. This blocks budgets, staffing, and independence. While lacking formal status, both bodies have accepted NGO funding to conduct limited activities like roundtables and detention visits, but no real torture prevention work has occurred.

Key Issues:

- NHRC members join CPT visits, blurring legal lines.
- Minimal activity overall.
- Political resistance and unpaid roles hinder operations.
- Internal divisions: some cite external barriers; others admit lack of expertise.
- Poor civil society engagement, despite Law 62/2016's mandate—offers of training and collaboration have been rejected or ignored, and complaints go unanswered.

During the 3rd UPR cycle, Lebanon supported a series of recommendations, specifically 150.16, 150.48, 150.51, 150.124, 150.125, 150.126, 150.129, 150.127, 150.128, 150.140, and 150.247. However, the Lebanese government has failed to fully implement any of these recommendations. Only one recommendation 150.140, which calls for the prompt and impartial investigation of all reported acts of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement, has been partially implemented.



Recommendations:

- Ensure the national commission for human rights and the national mechanism for prevention of torture are provided with necessary resources to conduct their work independently
- Train state security agencies on human rights standards including non-coercive interviewing techniques and the anti-torture law for public officials.

G - Right to Life and Civilian Protection Amid Israeli Military attacks

In 2024, Israeli military operations in Lebanon caused extensive harm to civilians. Both targeted and indiscriminate attacks destroyed civilian homes, schools, and healthcare facilities. The attacks failed to distinguish between civilians, military personnel, and medical teams, including ambulances and healthcare workers, as documented by humanitarian observers.

Additionally, the Israeli strikes devastated entire ecosystems. Olive trees were deliberately targeted, and bulldozers were used to uproot them entirely. The use of white phosphorus in populated areas resulted in severe injuries, including burn wounds among civilians, and caused long-term damage to agricultural seasons, with impacts expected to last for years.

These acts represent serious violations of international humanitarian law and the right to life as enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Lebanon is a party.

CLDH has issued a [report](#) covering the attacks Israel conducted on medical personnel which consists of a potential war crime under the provisions of the International Humanitarian Law.

In addition, CLDH has [published joint](#) and [individual statements](#) and sent [letters](#) to French, German, Netherlands, US Embassies and conducted lobbying meetings with the French embassy to discuss Israeli IHL violations.

Recommendations:

1. The Government of Lebanon should move forward with acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Or alternatively, proceed with a declaration under Article 12(3) of the ICC without parliamentary ratification. This would enable Lebanon to bring a case related to the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) potential war crimes, specifically in relation to the targeting of civilian infrastructure and humanitarian workers.



2. The United Nations Security Council should establish an international investigation mechanism to thoroughly examine Israel's systematic targeting of humanitarian and medical workers in Lebanon. This investigation should focus on documenting evidence of violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and ensure accountability for those responsible.

4- 2nd cycle CLDH recommendations & Status:

| 2nd Cycle Recommendation | Status |
|---|------------------------|
| Holding perpetrators of violence against protesters accountable must be an urgent priority of the government | Not implemented |
| Authorities should not arbitrarily arrest individuals as a retribution for protesting and end the practice of long or indefinite pre-trial detention | Not implemented |
| Lebanon should adopt the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on the abolition of the death penalty. | Not Implemented |
| Lebanon should put an end to impunity and guarantee an effective and impartial application of the legislation and court rulings through the formal judicial system. | Not Implemented |
| The Lebanese Parliament should ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and incorporate it into domestic laws. | Not Implemented |
| The General Security should stop deporting refugees in accordance with the international non-refoulement principle. | Not Implemented |



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| Abolish discriminatory laws and regulations against Palestinians in Lebanon. | Not Implemented |
| Include migrant domestic workers in the labor law and abolish the Kafala System. | Not Implemented |
| Improve legal aid in order to guarantee equal access to justice. | Not Implemented |
| Judicial systems should be automated to ease the communication between departments and sectors. | Not Implemented |
| Lebanon should urgently reform the military court system and refrain from using it to bypass due process of law. | Not Implemented |
| Ensure that judges deem inadmissible all confessions and evidence obtained under torture and hold authors of torture accountable. | Not Implemented |
| Reform the criminal justice system by ensuring more independent mechanisms for the nomination of judges, and an efficient state-led legal aid system. | Not Implemented |
| Lebanese authorities should ensure that not any individual is currently detained <i>incommunicado</i> . | Not Implemented |
| The National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared should receive a proper budget in order to start its work without delay. | Not Implemented |
| The search for disappeared persons should be conducted whilst respecting the dignity of victims and their families | Not Implemented |



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|---|------------------------|
| Follow and implement the guidelines provided by the ICPED and monitored by the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). | Not Implemented |
| Operationalize the NPM and ensure it is able to effectively carry out its mandate in full compliance with OPCAT and without interference of any kind. | Not Implemented |