

THE RIGHTS OBSERVER BY CLDH

Monitoring the Latest Human Rights Violations from the Field

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01

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: ACCESS RESTRICTIONS AND THE LOSS OF PRIVACY IN PRISONS

• VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

The CLDH team has encountered a challenge due to the lack of privacy and appropriate spaces for conducting rehabilitation sessions in prisons. Sessions are often held in designated rooms that are overcrowded, hindering concentration, compromising confidentiality, and affecting the overall quality of service delivery.

A WORD FROM THE TEAM

Communication and advocacy aren't just about delivering human rights content; they are about amplifying the voices of the most disadvantaged, documenting violations, and driving tangible change and accountability.

- **Rouba El Helou, Secretary General**
Board member at CLDH

- **BARRIERS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND CARE IN PRISONS**

In May 2025, access to Roumieh Prison was suspended for approximately two weeks. During this period, the prison administration was preparing to transfer the juvenile detainees from Roumieh to Warwar Prison. As a result, CLDH's team's ability to access the facility and provide essential services to juveniles was restricted.

02

TARGETED VIOLATIONS OF REFUGEES AND LGBTQI COMMUNITY

- **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NEWLY ARRIVED LGBTQ SYRIAN REFUGEES**

Amid Syria's ongoing crisis, several newly arrived Alawite individuals have been detained at Lebanese checkpoints. One person, reportedly targeted due to their real or perceived LGBTQ+ identity, was transferred to General Security and was facing imminent deportation. This raises serious human rights concerns, including violations of non-refoulement, non-discrimination, and the right to seek asylum. Thus, CLDH's legal team intervened and was able to secure the individual's release.

- **FROM DISPLACEMENT TO EXCLUSION: REFUGEES DENIED DIGNITY AND LEGAL STATUS**

Newly displaced Syrian refugees in, Bekaa, Lebanon, are facing widespread denial of their basic rights, including access to adequate housing, education, freedom of movement, and legal recognition. Many are living in dire and degrading conditions without any form of assistance. Lacking legal residency, they are unable to move freely and are effectively confined to specific areas. These conditions reflect serious and ongoing violations of their fundamental human rights under international law.



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"The Contracting States shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to nationals with respect to elementary education"

ARTICLE 22 FROM THE REFUGEE CONVENTION, 1951

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BARRIERS TO JUSTICE: HOW SYSTEMIC VIOLATIONS UNDERMINE THE RULE OF LAW

- **NEGLIGENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MISCONDUCT BY COURT CLERKS**

In several jurisdictions, especially in Mount Lebanon, CLDH's legal team has encountered negligence in file management. Files are frequently misplaced, ignored, or declared "in abeyance (held up)" without efforts to retrieve them. This has resulted in arbitrary detention. In one documented case, a file involving a detained minor was missing for over four months, and only after filing a complaint before the "Inspection Authority" was it confirmed lost. The file had to be reconstructed to secure the minor's release, which had already exceeded the legally permitted pretrial detention period. While the Inspection Authority occasionally engages with such complaints, the lack of systematic oversight means that cases involving individuals without legal assistance or external support often remain unresolved. As a result, many detainees, particularly vulnerable ones, remain in prolonged detention indefinitely, due to the absence of regular accountability or monitoring mechanisms.

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

- **DELAYED ENFORCEMENT OF RELEASE ORDERS VIOLATES THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY**

Delays in the enforcement of judicial release orders, sometimes extending up to three weeks due to reliance on postal delivery, result in individuals being held in custody well beyond the date a judge has lawfully ordered their release or acknowledged that they have served sufficient time. This practice constitutes a serious violation of the right to liberty and security of the person, as protected under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and similar provisions in regional and national legal frameworks. Continued detention under these circumstances amounts to arbitrary deprivation of liberty, undermining both the authority of the judiciary and the due process rights guaranteed to all individuals.



04

JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE DENIED: STRUCTURAL VIOLATIONS IN LEBANON'S DETENTION AND LEGAL SYSTEM

- **PROLONGED PRETRIAL DETENTION WITHOUT INDICTMENT**

In Baabda, detainees, particularly those facing drug-related charges, are often held for months or even years without indictment or referral to criminal courts. Release requests are routinely denied, and many remain in detention longer than the maximum sentence for the alleged offense, with no access to sentence reduction mechanisms, violating their Right to Liberty and Protection from Arbitrary Detention.

- **LAST-MINUTE JUDICIAL WARRANTS AT POINT OF RELEASE**

Last-Minute Judicial Warrants at Point of Release
Detainees frequently face new judicial warrants at the time of release due to outdated judicial records. CLDH urgently urges authorities to update detainees' judicial records every six months to prevent such issues and ensure legal clarity.

- **DELAYS IN PROSECUTORIAL OPINIONS IN BAALBEK AND SIDON:**

Public Prosecution offices in Baalbek and Sidon often delay issuing prosecutorial opinions. Without persistent follow-up by attorneys, files can remain pending for extended periods before being transferred to investigative judges.

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



- **LACK OF A PERMANENT INDICTMENT CHAMBER IN BAALBEK**

The absence of a permanent Indictment Chamber in Baalbek results in an unusually high number of appeals against release orders. The chamber is composed entirely of delegated judges, and frequently an investigative judge is appointed to serve concurrently in this role, leading to further case backlogs and delays.

- **REFUSAL OF RELEASE ORDERS BY CERTAIN INVESTIGATIVE JUDGES**

In both Baalbek and Mount Lebanon, some investigative judges consistently deny release requests without sufficient legal justification, contributing to prolonged pretrial detention.