



High Commissioner,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today, and for your continued engagement with Lebanon at this critical moment.

Today, parts of Lebanon remain under Israeli occupation. Dozens of Lebanese nationals have been taken from Lebanese territory and remain unlawfully detained in Israel, while reports of enforced disappearances continue to grow. Civilians in Lebanon, especially in southern Lebanon continue to face attacks and displacement with inadequate protection.

As human rights organizations, we continue documenting these violations and supporting victims, yet too often we stand alone. **The international community has not taken meaningful steps to ensure protection or accountability. At the same time, our government gave up on accountability, the recently adopted Article 13 of the Tripartite Agreement raises serious concerns by restricting Lebanon's ability to seek accountability through international legal mechanisms, like the ICC, at a time when accountability for grave violations is more necessary than ever.**

Beyond the conflict, CLDH continues to document a broader crisis of accountability. Across our legal aid, detention monitoring, advocacy, and documentation work, we see the same pattern: laws exist but are not implemented, institutions fail to protect rights, and the most vulnerable pay the highest price.

Allow me to briefly illustrate this.

In 2024, CLDH handled 2,315 legal aid cases, including 522 detention cases, **while our monitoring continues to document arbitrary detention, prolonged pre-trial detention, denial of legal representation, and poor detention conditions.** According to the Head of the Beirut Bar Association's Prison Committee, Lebanon's prisons are currently operating at approximately 340% of their intended capacity, while the overwhelming majority of detainees remain in pre-trial detention.

We are equally concerned by the deteriorating protection environment for refugees. We recently represented a Syrian Druze refugee who fled sectarian violence in Suwayda. Despite credible evidence that he faced persecution and Lebanon's obligations under Article 3 of the Convention against Torture, the court ordered his deportation. This reflects a broader trend of shrinking protection, increasing deportations, and declining legal residency for refugees.



The situation of migrant domestic workers remains equally alarming. Under the Kafala system, exploitation, confinement, and barriers to justice remain widespread. One domestic worker escaped an abusive employer only to remain imprisoned because she could not pay a court-imposed fine—a stark example of how poverty and discrimination can lead to prolonged deprivation of liberty.

“Justice is upheld through the rule of law and the courage to reform.” Thanks to the Minister of Justice the Government’s unanimously approved the Law abolishing the Death Penalty and we call upon Parliament to adopt it without delay.

We are also increasingly concerned by the shrinking civic space in Lebanon. The draft Media Law risks undermining freedom of expression, while journalists, activists, lawyers, and human rights defenders continue to face harassment and intimidation.

High Commissioner, we respectfully ask for your continued support in five areas:

- Strengthen advocacy for accountability for torture, arbitrary detention, and prolonged pre-trial detention, including implementation and amendment of the Anti-Torture Law.
- Reaffirm the principle of non-refoulement and monitor deportations of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Support dismantling the Kafala system and extending labor law protections to migrant domestic workers.
- Continue monitoring attacks on civilians, medical personnel, and civilian infrastructure, while supporting accountability for violations of international humanitarian law.
- Continue supporting Lebanese civil society, civic space, freedom of expression, and human rights defenders.

The greatest challenge facing Lebanon today is not the absence of laws—it is the absence of accountability.

Thank you.