



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 January 2019]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Report on the situation of Human Rights in Lebanon**

### **Disappointing hopes, violations and laws not implemented**

Day after day, there is regression of the human rights situation in Lebanon at all levels, disappointment despite some initial attempts to pass a number of laws that are still on paper.

Lebanon has also failed to respect its international obligations with regard to international conventions, periodic review recommendations, visits of the special rapporteurs and various rights related to citizens.

#### **1. Civil and political rights:**

##### **The right to life, prisons and torture**

- With regard to the right to life, the Justice Council issues death sentences, although Lebanon has stopped the death penalty for years. There are 76 sentenced to death penalty in 2017 and 61 sentenced in 2016 and 175 life sentences in 2017.
- There are 6,385 prisoners in Lebanese prisons, more than half are without trial. The prisons suffer from severe problems, overcrowding and very serious health and social conditions. The rooms sometimes contain 35 prisoners, which can accommodate two, they suffer from scabies, lice, insects and lack of hygiene. The Lebanese prisons are not prisons for human beings and most of them must be closed.
- The parliamentary elections in 2018 were based on a sectarian election law contrary to democracy and human rights.
- Absence of judicial independence and put an end to arbitrary detention and non-trial of the civilians in front of the Military Court.
- The number of deaths caused by traffic accidents resulting from the absence of public safety conditions from the beginning of 2018 until the end of November 2018 was 281 dead and 3,432 injured, and the internal security forces reports that 450 deaths per year are caused by traffic accidents
- There are also several deaths and disability due to medical negligence.

##### **Torture**

Lebanon ratified the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol of the Convention and the establishment of the preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture, although torture is still practiced in detention centers, that was confirmed by the Committee against Torture during its visit to the Lebanese prisons in 2013 and 2014 that torture is systematic in the Lebanese prisons also confirmed by the Lebanese delegation during the discussion of Lebanon in front of The Human Rights Committee in Geneva to discuss the National Lebanese Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in June 2018 "that at the year 2018 there were 70 cases of torture".

And the theatrical actor Ziad Itani was tortured when he was arrested by the State Security on November 23, 2017, confirming the continuation of torture in Lebanon.

Torture is not limited to beatings. Cruel, inhuman, humiliating or degrading treatment when it increases it rises up to torture. We recall that Lebanon violated the Convention against Torture Article 3 when Turkish opposition Iten Ozturk was forcibly handed over to the Turkish authorities at Beirut airport on March 8, 2018, although the Lebanese side was informed that she is an opposition and would be tortured if handed over, that was actually what happened, she was tortured in the Turkish prison and injected with chemicals.

##### **Public freedoms:**

In recent times, there has been an increase in restrictions on public freedoms, especially on social media, summoning activists and interrogating them. The number reached about 50

activists, and whatever criticism is harsh, rejected and sometimes dishonest, it is not permissible to investigate or summon.

The attacks against journalists and activists were intensified by officials in the Lebanese state and the attacks on the new television channels, blocking them from Lebanese areas, preventing meetings, and recently issuing a circular to Interior Minister Nouhad al-Mashnouq on November 12, 2018 No. 24 as an attempt to guard associations and restrict their activities.

## **2. Economic, social and cultural rights:**

### **The standard of living, the right to work, health, housing and environment**

All the data indicate the serious deterioration in the economic and social conditions and the increase in the public debt, 30% of the Lebanese are below the poverty line, 36% are unemployed, 1.5 million are living with \$ 4 per day and 8% are extreme poverty 2200.firm closed .

Health services are deteriorating Despite talk about the health card, it is enough to look at the government hospitals, negligence and favoritism and threatened by the closure and sit-in of employees to payed their salaries and high prices of medicine because of the monopoly of imports from traders and mafias.

According to the World Health Organization, Lebanon is in the first place in cancer deaseses due to environmental pollution from the piles of waste and pollution of the Litani River, alghadir and Berdawni,the Normandi the death factor (Zouk), the crushers and, most recently, the explosion of the sewage at Ramleh Al Bayda.

- Increasing mental illness, frequent medical errors and 150 suicides cases by November 2018.
- Absence of a housing policy for the poor and passing loans to those who do not deserve it, also we mention the law of rents it is for displacement.
- Lack of social protection, guaranteeing old age and poor social security
- The spread of corruption, which has become a political and social system in all institutions of the state and corruption has become an organized state, and Lebanon is in the 137 place in global corruption and Somalia take Lebanon as an example of the spread of corruption and seriousness.
- Also the increase in the crime rates in 2016 the number was 118 crimes, and in 2017 was 137 crimes.