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**President of Lebanon's National Human Rights Commission including the committee for the Prevention of Torture - (NHRC-CPT)**

## **Transcript of the video**

The National Human Rights Commission including the committee for the Prevention of Torture - (NHRC-CPT) is a legally mandated and independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) functioning in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

In the stakeholder report to the UPR of Lebanon, NHRC-CPT has selected six priority areas of particular relevance to the promotion of human rights in Lebanon.

The thematic issues covered in this report are:

Empowering Lebanon's NHRI and NPM

Accountability of the implementation of anti-torture law and other ill-treatment, and the suggested amendments

Ratification of CRPD and CPPED and the status of the standing invitation to the special procedures

The situation of refugees and migrant domestic workers

Protests of 2019-2020 and the status of human rights

The financial crisis and the longstanding socioeconomic grievances

During the second UPR review, Lebanon accepted nineteen recommendations to speed up the establishment of the National Independent Commission for Human Rights which includes the establishment of a permanent national committee to prevent torture, in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of Law No. 62/2016, NHRC-CPT prepared its own draft annual budget and submitted it to the Minister of Finance on 16 September 2019, in accordance with the principles stipulated in the Public Accounting Law. Unfortunately, the ministry of finance and at a later stage the Cabinet neglected this document and submitted to the parliament the Law of Public Budget for the fiscal year 2020 without allocating financial resources for the effective and independent work of NHRC-CPT and without creating functional classification related to the promotion and protection of human rights and the prevention of torture.

Recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission including the committee for the Prevention of Torture - (NHRC-CPT) on the occasion of the Third Review of Lebanon under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council 2020.

Allocating sufficient financial resources to the NHRC-CPT in the public annual budget (in a specified separate budget line), and create functional classification in the public budget related to the promotion and protection of human rights and the prevention of torture.

Amend article 28 of the 62/2016, to fully respect the principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993, and in reference to general observation 1.10 of the Global

Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) on adequate funding for NHRI's.

Respect and fully implement the anti-torture law No. 65/2017, and to investigate the allegations of torture by a civil judge, not by security agencies in addition to investigating the claims of torture through a fair investigation in competent civilian courts instead of military courts.

Amend Law No. 65/2017 to criminalize Inhuman or degrading treatment and/or punishment (CIDT), and to explicitly state that the crime of torture should not be subjected to statute of limitations and to provide sanctions for cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Speed up the establishment of National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared in Lebanon.

Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Prevent any violation of fundamental rights recognised in treaties to which Lebanon is party; and develop a legal framework defining and protecting the free speech and opinion in Lebanon.

