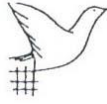


LEBANON

KHIAM REHABILITATION CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE SUBMISSION

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, UPR RECOMMENDATIONS AGAINST TORTURE AND PRISON



Khiam Rehabilitation center for victims of torture, is a non-governmental organization works to prevent torture and defend human rights in Lebanon and the Arab countries.

My speech revolves around the violations that accompanied the revolution on October 17, 2019 and its effects on UPR, the anti-torture recommendations that Lebanon agreed in the 2015 general periodic review session, the prison conditions that are currently sweeping as COVID-19 and the human rights situation in Lebanon.

October 17 revolution

After a series of popular protesting movements concerning the deterioration of the economic, social and environmental conditions an revolution broke out a revolution on October 17,2019 which Lebanon has not witnessed since the 1975 civil war. It included all regions and by passed all sectarian and political party.

Despite the peacefulness of the uprising, there are violations committed by the security services and practices of some groups that contradict the peacefulness of the revolution. Many martyrs, and the number of detainees reached 906, and they were released later

A number of the released detainees testified that they had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Periodic review recommendations:

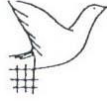
In 2015, Lebanon pledged to the Human Rights Council to implement the 135 UPR recommendations, most of which were carried over from the 2010 review.

The recommendation to establish a national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture within the National Commission for Human Rights was approved, Law 62 dated 10/27/2016, but it was not implemented despite its formation and the swearing in of the oath, so there is neither a budget nor a decision for the commission. It is implemented as the National Commission for Missing Persons was formed, and the same for headquarters and no budget.

Despite the advantages of adopting these recommendations, they have not been implemented in practice, especially the 117 Recommendation, which calls for legislative measures to be taken in order to incorporate the provisions of the Convention against Torture and its protocol into national law to ensure their implementation, in addition to all other recommendations made by the Committee against Torture in 2013 and 2014.

Torture escalated in prisons before and after the October 17 revolution and the death of prisoner Hassan al-Dika in hospital on May 11, 2019 is an example.

The Lebanese government did not implement the recommendations of the periodic review to deal with prison conditions, and no judicial decision was issued to punish the perpetrators of torture, the reason being the absence of political will and seriousness on the part of the ruling authority.



When corruption is rampant in the state apparatus and the judiciary is rampant, torture ramps up, the law is suspended, and the perpetrators escape accountability.

Historical stage

After the October 17, 2019, Lebanon entered a new historical stage, the stage of intermittent uprisings and without responding to the demands of the first intifada to implement urgent measures, the existing political sectarian system has lost its merits, and prosthetic solutions and painkillers are no longer useful.

The recommendations of the periodic review, as well as the national plan for human rights, no longer meet the new historical stage that was inaugurated by the October 17, 2019 revolution.

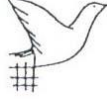
All successive governments have also failed to implement them and even obstruct them. The exit from the devastation and the political and economic collapse has become in the emergence of a new authority that forms a government outside the system of corruption and sectarian parties. The main entry point for change is to abolish political sectarianism, build a civil, democratic state, and consider the Lebanese citizens, not subjects.

Lebanon is at the gates of political, security, economic and social chaos, 50% of the citizens are at the poverty line, and the explosion of the Beirut port on August 4, 2020 and the invasion of Corona came to deepen the economic crisis and political chaos and the absence of exceptional measures to confront the Covid 19 pandemic that is sweeping the prisons and not allowing associations to implement their rehabilitation programs

The new phase surpassed all previous recommendations, proposing the following.

Suggested recommendations:

- 1- A judicial commission of inquiry for all violations that have accompanied the popular revolution since October 17, 2019, and holding accountable those responsible for the violations
- 2- Establishing a democratic election law based on proportionality and outside the sectarian constraint
- 3- Adoption of the law on the independence of the judiciary and the recovery of stolen money
- 4- Activating the National Commission for Human Rights, this includes the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the National Commission for Missing Persons, and providing material resources for their departure.
- 5- Implementing Law No. 65 Punishing Torture and announcing the investigation of the death of prisoner Hassan Al-Dika and all those who



died in the past five years.

- 6- Declare a state of judicial emergency to speed up trials in prisons and release marginalized groups at risk of the Corona epidemic, especially patients, the elderly, juveniles and women.
- 7- Inviting the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit Lebanon
- 8- Establishing a coordination mechanism between state institutions and civil society organizations to follow up on recommendations

Beirut,13 October 2020