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I believe that when we are talking about Lebanon and UPR. We should never forget that UPR is to describe a situation and describe the recommendation to provide recommendations on how to improve human rights. So the main objective is to enhance human rights. It's not to have a wish list or to have a list of commitments that we have to check, and then we have to see an impact on real life. And unfortunately, Lebanon is considering the UPR as a checklist that he has only to tick the boxes without making any improvement in real life.

Our organization noticed that many of Lebanon's commitments that will be presented as achieved are completed on paper. For example, the National Human Rights institution was appointed. However, it's still not efficient, not working because a budget wasn't released, the National Commission on enforced disappearances. It was established, the law was passed. However, the National Commission still didn't start working; even worst in the two committees, we noticed that the confessional system and clan repartition of the number between political parties was used to appoint those people. Then we end up with an independent commission on paper with both of them, which a remarkable achievement, but unfortunately, the people assigned



were appointed by the political party, which put a shade on their independence.

Regarding the Freedom of Expression. When we review the situation for the last three, four years, we can easily notice that it was under massive attack. We have seen a tremendous augmentation of the number of human rights activists, regular people, journalists, and a political opponent summoned to go to the investigation, not for having done something but for having said something. We believe that this attack against freedom of expression is going in parallel with an attack on freedom of association. Many associations are failing to get the not even their approval because the law is declarative, at least to acknowledge that they informed the government about their existence to open a bank account.

To wrap up, we believe that on paper Lebanon might present some theoretical improvement. Unfortunately, the answer is that the ground we noticed that the freedom of expression is under attack, torture is continuing in enforced disappearances victims still waiting for answers. And definitely, is the judiciary still not independent.

So we hope you will look to Lebanon's alleged achievement from the impact side, not only from the ticking boxes on the list.

Thank you
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