

Statement from the associations and civil society organizations commenting on the national report on the Convention against Torture

Friday, May 27, 2016

The impact of the development of the Lebanese state's national report against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or cruel, submitted Punishment under Article 19 of the Convention and send it to the Committee against Torture on 9 March 2016, that was supposed to be sent in 2001, expresses associations and civil society institutions, the undersigned, and committed to work against torture expressed its appreciation for this step and welcomed the fulfillment of Lebanon's commitment to send this report, albeit after a delay about 15 years.

But after reviewing the content of this preliminary report, we see that it was peeled off from reality to a large extent and it Nord in this site observations basic rationale for issuing this statement as follows:

- Unjustified delay "political, economic, social and security exceptional circumstances experienced by Lebanon in fourteen years, ten years, did not allow the fulfillment of this obligation within the prescribed time limit" indicates a lack of serious commitment to the Convention, especially as we are at the stage more than exceptional.
- The lack of transparency and openness in the formulation and publication of this report, both in terms of ignoring civil society and forbidden it from any role in the position, in addition to conceal sent to Geneva so that he did not publish the minimum on the official websites of the ministries and official departments concerned, and the associations have know about it through her work and collaborate with with UN agencies.
- A review of the report of the system of legal materials in the Lebanese laws as an alternative or even a companion explicit text criminalization of torture, is a big and dangerous fallacy cannot be overlooked, so that all the materials that have been mentioned equal between the common man and the representative of authority, and that there is mixing between the death of torture as a crime and the impact and consequences of corrupting the will and therefore the resulting recognition.
- The proposed definition under the draft law is not compatible with the definition contained in the first article of the Convention, but not contrary to it, which is completely different from the proposed definition of the basic version made by the civil society in the work team, which participated actively in the formulation of this project.

The state report was fanciful and away from the reality of widespread torture in places of detention, which confirmed the results of the investigation carried out by the Committee Against Torture in 2014, did not refer the report to the deterrent penalties taken by the

State against the accused in the commission of acts of torture in the Roumieh prison, the right of suspects in terrorism cases in 2015, which is confirmed through the continuation of the Lebanese authorities of torture, and the failure of decision-makers and responsibility in eradicating this scourge and achieve prevention and preventing access.

, Still entrusted with the security and judicial police use torture are worrying the Lebanese authorities, and has not for Lebanon, yet the majority of its obligations to enforce under the Convention, which puts the Lebanese state, with all its powers to the serious challenge is the duty to rescue its credit and rebuild trust with the citizens, which cannot be achieved only by taking a serious, steady and precise steps and effective, measurable and comparison, and the foot on the implementation of all actual and necessary guarantees against torture and other degrading treatment obligations, without further delay or procrastination, in addition to many steps and actions that must be taken immediately in order to ensure accountability and to insist on the truth and be honest with the public opinion on the subject CAT accounting level as at the level of prevention.

This statement, which remains a principled, stand waiting for the workshop will be organized in the next month on the occasion of the International Day Against Torture, as well as the intention of the civil society to participate in the discussion of the report the first such in front of the Committee against Torture in Geneva in 2017 through the development of a parallel report to the official report.

Associations and institutions signed: Ajem, Al Karama Foundation, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Alef-act for human rights, legal agenda.