



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BEIRUT**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday 15 May 2017**

### **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SUPPORTS RASHAYA EL WADI PRISON'S MEDICAL CENTRE IN**

Australia's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Glenn Miles, visited today Rashaya El Wadi Prison to unveil the newly established medical centre, as well as inspect kitchen and laundry equipment funded by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program through the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Colonel Antoine Aoun representing the Director General of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Imad Othman and Mr Mohamad Safa, Secretary General of Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture. Also attending were the Head of the Internal Security Detachment of Rashaya El Wadi, the Head of the Prison of Rashaya El Wadi, and other notable figures of the village.

Ambassador Miles commended Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for its efforts to assist detainees and alleviate their hardship, noting that this would assist in rehabilitating prisoners and integrating them back into society on their release. The Embassy funded a similar project in Jeb Janine Prison in 2016 and was pleased to repeat the project this year in Rashaya El Wadi Prison.

"The Embassy is proud to cooperate with the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture to improve the lives of detainees. We hope our modest contribution today will help improve the quality of life for detainees and reduce the burden on the Internal Security Forces who are working very hard with overly crowded prisons.

The Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program targets projects that require a small injection of funds but will have a significant impact on the lives of underprivileged people. Over a hundred organisations have benefited from the program since 2004.