



Beirut, 10/7/2018

**Ceremony of the opening of the medical clinic at Baalbek prison
Demanding that the establishment of the preventive mechanism for
the prevention of torture is not merely a media step**



Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims opened a medical clinic in Baalbek prison this project is funded by the Australian Embassy in Beirut under the direct aid project. The ceremony was attended by Capt. Dr. Khalil Qassem representing the General Director of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Imad Osman, Consul Antonio Darren, representing the Australian Ambassador Glenn Miles, Secretary General of Khiam Center Mohammed Safa, Governel of Baalbek & Hermel Mr. Khader Bashir and Prison Commander Captain Waheed Freijeh.

The opening of the medical clinic at Baalbek is the third project implemented by the Khiam Center with funding from the Australian Embassy and is part of the health and psychological rehabilitation of those deprived of their freedom in Lebanese prisons.



Providing the prisons with medical, electrical, sports and family equipment and televisions that integrate with the rehabilitation process of the center. The place is essential in the rehabilitation process.



Mohamad Safa

First, we thank the Australian Embassy in Beirut and the Ambassador Gilen Miles and the Australian Government for the direct aid project to equip Baalbeck prison with a medical clinic and 70 beds and matrix and various electrical appliances carried out by the Khiam Center as part of the health and psychological assistance of detainees in Lebanese prisons.

In 2015, with the support of the Australian Embassy, Jib Jenin prison was equipped with a medical clinic and similar equipment also in 2017, the prison of Rashaya al-Wadi was also equipped.

The direct aid project from the Australian Embassy or projects from other sources fills a great shortage in the Lebanese prisons and contributes to alleviating the suffering of the prisoners, but these projects can not be as important as an alternative to the role of the state and its duties in dealing with one of the chronic social and humanitarian issues Successive attention required.

The Lebanese prisons need everything, and suffer from overcrowding, slow trials and bad health situation. It is not surprising to say that most of the prisons in government institutions do not meet the international standards of prisons.

There are 6429 prisoners in Lebanon's prisons to date, and during the visits done by the Center in 2017-2018 to a number of prisons, we find the following: For example, in Aley prison 92 prisoners, 21 sentenced and 71 detainees, Baalbeck prison: 83 prisoners, 31 sentenced and 52 detainees, Nabatiyeh: Number of prisoners 139, 40 sentenced, 99 detained and the number of rooms 2, Berber Khazen prison, number of female prisoners 58, 16 sentenced, 42 detained; Zahle prison for men, it is builded for 350 prisoners but there is 790 prisoners.



Is it reasonable for a paper to keep the prisoner imprisoned or for financial aids of 40 thousand lebanese lira or not received the summary of his rule and the absence of lawyers and judicial aid, etc.

We can mention also the medical problems suffered from the prisoners example diabetes, blood pressure, arthritis, dermatology etc.....

These samples require accelerated trials and the development of health and psychological care, despite the efforts of the Health Centers of the Health Department of the Internal Security Forces or the humanitarian associations.

In short, the prison problem in Lebanon goes beyond all that is said about it. The main problem is the absence of a government plan and a civilized modern project that transfers prisons from the traditional concept of a punitive institution to Rehabilitational, Educational, cultural and professional. Most prisons in the world are schools where graduate artists, painters and professionals.

Khiam Center, in spite of numerous observations in the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, which includes the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, is an important step to protect human rights deprived of their freedom, visit places of detention and receive complaints, hoping that the Commission and the Committee will come to light.

From here in Baalbek prison, the alarm bell sounded, calling on the government to give priority to the issue of prisons and to announce a legal and health emergency plan to comprehensively address this chronic issue.

We are honored at the Khiam Center for the implementation of the direct aid project financed by the Australian Embassy.

We launch the project today and hand it over to the management of Baalbeck prison and renew our thanks to His Excellency the Ambassador of Australia, Mr. Gillen Maiz, and the Director General of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Emad Othman, to open each year another project for another prison that needs direct assistance.



Ms Antonia Da-Rin, Second Secretary and Consul:

Embassy Officials visited today Baalbeck Prison to unveil the newly established medical centre and the kitchen and laundry equipment funded by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program through the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture.

Ms Antonia Da-Rin, Second Secretary and Consul, commended Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for its efforts to assist detainees and alleviate their hardship. The Embassy funded in the past two years similar projects in Jeb Janine and Rashaya El Wadi Prisons and was very happy to repeat the project this year in Baalbeck Prison.

"The Embassy is proud to cooperate with the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture to improve the livelihoods 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 organizations have benefited from the program since 2004.



Major General Qassem:

Major General Qassem said: "I have been honored by the General Director of the Internal Security Forces to represent him at this ceremony of the opening of the medical clinic for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, funded by the



Australian State through the DAP project like other good projects provided as support The Lebanese state and the internal security forces" .

"Human rights and humanity are the concern of all international organizations, civil society organizations and social and security institutions. Therefore, it is imperative that the duty of solidarity and solidarity to protect communities and protect their welfare for the benefit of them, as well as the development of communities at all levels".

Qassim stressed that "the institution of the internal security forces has not and will spare no effort to achieve these goals, whether on the security or humanitarian level, and it sets in mind the protection of society and rehabilitation to move it for the better for the citizen to live in peace and security in the country under the roof of the law that guaranteed him the right Live in freedom and peace "

He said, "There are human cases in our society that must be dealt with seriously and consciously in order to address them in order to prevent them from escalating and in line with our aspirations. For these cases we have developed this clinic, which we are opening today and that we in the internal security forces believe that it is our moral and human duty to follow up these cases Need and dictate our conscience, human and professional" .

Qassem concluded: "Your Excellency the Consul, we convey to you and your government the thanks of the Internal Security Forces for your effort to support the opening of this clinic and you were one of the first to support the Lebanese state and its institutions and white hands through your contribution to the establishment and development of medical clinics, and others social centers which aim to serve humanity at all levels and to further progress and achievements including Interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese people."





News parers and T.V covered the event:

Ak Akhbar news paper

<https://al-akhbar.com/Community/253539/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A8>

NNA:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/ar/show-news/353444/#.Wzy3kUc-8eg.whatsapp>

Daily Star:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2018/Jul-04/455341-australian-embassy-inaugurates-medical-clinic-at-baalbeck-prison.ashx>

MTV:

https://www.mtv.com.lb/programs/Prime_Time_News/2018/videos/04_Jul_2018

Al Liwaa News paper:

file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/User_A/My%20Documents/Downloads/%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AA_%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A1.pdf

OTV:

<https://www.otv.com.lb/daily-news>

L'orion du jour:

<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1124254/une-clinique-medicale-a-la-prison-de-baalbeck-pour-ameliorer-les-soins-durgence.html>