



**Lebanese Republic | National Human Rights
Commission, including the Committee for the
Prevention of Torture (NHRC-CPT)**

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Fourth Review of Lebanon under the
Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

**Annex 1 to the written contribution
by NHRC-CPT**

July 2025

Legal Mandate of the NHRC and CPT

The National Human Rights Commission, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (NHRC-CPT), is a legally mandated and independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) that functions in full compliance with the Paris Principles. According to Law No. 62 dated 27/10/2016 (Official Gazette No. 52 dated 3/11/2016), the NHRC-CPT discharges its mandate in all questions relating to the protection and promotion of human rights in Lebanon.

Lebanon acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) under Law No. 12 of September 5, 2008. Based on CAT Article 17, the state committed itself to creating an independent national mechanism to prevent torture by establishing the National Human Rights Commission, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

The Committee for the Prevention (CPT) of Torture works within the NHRC on protecting the rights of persons who are detained and deprived of their liberties in accordance with Lebanon's obligations under the OPCAT. As defined by the OPCAT, CPT carries out the function of a national preventive mechanism aimed at protecting the rights of persons who are detained and deprived of their liberties. The CPT enjoys the independent legal capacity to act in matters related to torture and its prevention.

Both the NHRC and CPT, in their respective fields, draft a unified report that includes their annual programs, achievements, and challenges. NHRC shall submit the unified report to the office of the President, the office of the Head of Parliament, the office of the Prime Minister, and the office of the Head of the Supreme Council of Justice. The report shall be published in the Official Gazette and may be discussed by the Parliament.

The NHRC shall follow up and assess the status of human rights and international humanitarian law in Lebanon, draft and publish, as appropriate, special or periodic reports accordingly.

Members of the NHRC-CPT

The NHRC-CPT members were appointed by Decree 3267 of June 19, 2018, and Decree 5147 of July 5, 2019.

On November 12, 2019, under Article 6 of Law No. 62/2016 and the provisions of Chapter Three of Law No. 62/2016, specifically Articles 15 to 20, the NHRC-CPT elected the President and members of the NHRC board and assigned tasks as follows.

- Dr. Fadi Gerges - President of the NHRC-CPT
- Judge Khalil Abourjeily - President of CPT, Vice President of NHRC-CPT
- Lawyer Dr. Rana Jamal - Secretary
- Mr. Ali Youssef - Treasurer and Commissioner of Complaints

- Mr. Bassam Al Kantar - Commissioner of International Relations and Information
- Professor Fadl Daher - Commissioner of Studies, Monitoring, Education, and Development
- Dr. Josyan Madi-Skaff - Commissioner in the CPT
- Lawyer Raymond Medlej - Commissioner in the CPT
- Ms. Rida Ramez Azar - Commissioner in the CPT
- Dr. Bilal Sablough - Commissioner in the CPT

Powers and duties of NHRC

Law 62/2016 defines the powers and duties of NHRC as follows:

The NHRC protects and promotes human rights in Lebanon, adhering to the standards outlined in the Lebanese Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Human Rights Conventions and Treaties, and relevant Lebanese laws that are consistent with these standards. In addition, the NHRC shall carry out special functions set out in the present law and may, for this purpose, communicate independently with international and local human rights bodies.

In particular, the NHRC is vested with the following duties:

- 1- Monitor Lebanon's compliance with Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and draft and publish special or periodic reports on the matter.
- 2- Contribute independently to drafting reports that shall be submitted by the Lebanese State.
- 3- Offer feedback and consultation upon the request of competent authorities or under its initiative regarding the respect and observation of human rights standards.
- 4- Receive claims and complaints of human rights violations and contribute to handling these claims through negotiations, mediation, or prosecution.
- 5- Contribute to the dissemination of the culture of human rights and advocate for the implementation and development of human rights education programs.

Powers and duties of CPT

Law 62/2016 defines the powers and duties of CPT as follows:

The CPT works within the NHRC to protect the rights of persons who are detained and deprived of their liberty, in accordance with the provisions of the present law and Lebanon's obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

As defined by OPCAT, the CPT carries out the function of a national preventive mechanism aimed at protecting the rights of those detained and deprived of their liberties. Accordingly, the CPT enjoys the independent legal capacity to act in matters related to the prevention of torture.

The CPT, its appointed members, its accompanying employees, or contractors have the full authority to access and visit all places of detention and related facilities in Lebanon without any exception to protect detainees against arbitrary detention, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. Furthermore, the CPT shall cooperate and negotiate with competent authorities to enforce and improve laws and regulations related to detainees and places of detention.

The CPT or any of its appointed members may:

- 1- Carry out periodic or unannounced visits at any time to places of detention without prior notice or the need for any permission from any administrative, judicial, or other authority.
- 2- Conduct collective or individual interviews with detainees in private, away from any surveillance, and with the assistance of an interpreter if necessary.
- 3- Meet any other person who may have relevant information or provide assistance that it deems necessary, and have unrestricted access to confidential information as required by CPT's work. The CPT may not publish or reveal any of this information without the consent of the person concerned or the source.
- 4- Receive complaints or requests for interviews, inspection, or medical examination.

Article 27/b of Law 62/2016 allowed CPT to establish direct contact with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and provide it with information when required. Accordingly, CPT and SPT shall meet periodically or whenever needed.

The NHRC and CPT, each in its respective field, shall provide a unified report that includes their annual programs, achievements, and challenges. NHRC shall submit the unified report to the office of the President, the office of the Head of Parliament, the office of the Prime Minister, and the office of the Head of the Supreme Council of Justice. The report shall be published in the Official Gazette, and it may be discussed by the Parliament. The report shall not mention any personal information or details that could reveal the identity of victims or witnesses without their consent.

Standing Committees of the NHRC-CPT

Under the provisions of Article 12 of Law No. 62/2016, the NHRC-CPT established four standing committees:

International Humanitarian Law Commission

The International Humanitarian Law Commission (ILC) ensures respect for all relevant

international humanitarian law conventions, protocols, and customary rules to which Lebanon is a party, whether through ratification or accession.

The Grievance Committee for Child Victims of Child Rights Violations

The Grievance Committee for Child Victims of Child Rights Violations represents the National Grievance Mechanism for Child Victims of Child Rights Violations. The Committee bases its work on the principle of the child's best interest, respects the child's rights and views, and gives these views due importance in accordance with the child's age and maturity.

Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is considered the national mechanism for protecting persons with disabilities, taking into account the competence of relevant authorities.

Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Committee is mandated to combat trafficking in persons and ensure the protection of victims and witnesses, taking into account the competence of relevant authorities.