



17 March 2011
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**UN Human Rights Council
Sixteenth session, 28 February – 25 March 2011**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

LEBANON

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Lebanon's support of recommendations to amend its national legislation to include a definition of torture that conforms to the Convention against Torture,¹ to criminalize all forms of torture and other ill-treatment in the Criminal Code, and to investigate and prosecute all allegations of such crimes.²

We are disappointed that Lebanon rejected a number recommendations aimed at amending discriminatory laws and regulations relating to nationality, to the right to own property, and to education and employment that affect over 420,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Lebanon.³ We urge Lebanon to keep these important recommendations under review and to explore options for supporting and implementing them in due course.

Mr President,

We welcome Lebanon's willingness to examine recommendations to establish an independent national body to investigate the whereabouts of missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance, as well as to consider ratifying the Convention for Protection from Enforced Disappearance. We take this opportunity to emphasize recommendations to the government to mandate such an independent body to locate and protect mass graves believed to contain the remains of unidentified victims of the civil war, to exhume any human remains in accordance with international standards, to establish a DNA database to identify any human remains, and to enable the families of

¹ A/HRC/16/18, recommendations 80.13 and 80.14 (Netherlands, Ireland, Germany)

² Ibid, recommendations 80.15 and 80.16 (Slovakia, Belgium, Spain).

³ Ibid, recommendations 82.17-80.20 (Netherlands, Norway, UK, Canada, Brazil); 82.27-82.29 (France, Palestine), 82.31-82.32 (USA, Norway, Finland, Netherlands), 82.34-92.36 (Brazil, Netherlands, Finland).

the missing to finally know the fate of their loved ones.⁴ There is no excuse for the lack of investment in establishing truth and justice for these victims.

While we welcome Lebanon's expressed commitment to achieve gender equality⁵ we regret that Lebanon rejected recommendations to ensure that women can pass on their nationality to their children and to amend the personal status laws to ensure women's equality with men with regard to child custody, inheritance and divorce.⁶

Finally, Mr. President,

We regret that Lebanon rejected recommendations to abolish the death penalty⁷ and to end the prerogative of the military courts to try civilians.⁸ We note with concern that civilians continue to be tried and sentenced to death before military courts in proceedings that fall far short of international fair trial standards.

Thank you, Mr President.

⁴ Ibid, recommendations 84.4 and 84.5 (Mexico, Germany)

⁵ Ibid, recommendation 80.24, 80.25 (Spain, Norway)

⁶ Ibid, recommendations 82.17–82.20 (Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil)

⁷ Ibid, recommendations 82.4–82.12 (Belgium, France, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Australia, Spain, Ireland, Canada, Italy, Germany)

⁸ Ibid, recommendations 82.14 (Germany)