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**Oral statement by Pax Christi International**  
**Lebanon under the UPR**  
**Item 6**

Mr. Chairman,

The international Catholic peace movement Pax Christi International<sup>1</sup> welcomes the significant number of recommendations with regard to torture made by states during Lebanon's review under the UPR; it commends the government of Lebanon on accepting these recommendations and announcing a number of key reforms it is committed to for the eradication and prevention of torture.

The Lebanese delegation announced the government's commitment to bringing the definition of torture in line with international standards and to increase the sentences for torture. Accordingly, Pax Christi International reiterates that Article 401 of the Penal Code is ambiguous and does not criminalize torture. It is important to note that "violent practices" must be defined so as to include mental and psychological torture. We also highly urge the government of Lebanon to proceed in declaring that it recognizes the competence of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UN-CAT) Committee in receiving and considering individual complaints under art. 22 of the Convention Against Torture.

We would like to point out that the creation of bodies with a monitoring mandate within the Ministries of Justice and Interior are welcomed steps. However, the creation of these committees should not justify the delay in establishing a National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) in accordance with obligations under the Optional Protocol of the CAT. Pax Christi International emphasizes that the National Prevention Mechanism is an independent monitoring body and a necessary complement to internal monitoring mechanisms. We highly urge the government to commit to a time-table for the establishment of the NPM.

Regarding delays in reporting to the UN treaty bodies, Pax Christi International regrets that Lebanon's representative to the review session did not present valid justifications for such delays. We believe that it is not a good practice for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue due responsibility for reporting to UN mechanisms. A clear division of responsibilities within the government could contribute to improving the reporting practice to UN.

On the capital punishment, Pax Christi International regrets that the Lebanese delegation has rejected all recommendations. We urge the government of Lebanon to reconsider and sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We are concerned about death penalties issued by the Military Tribunal, which does not adhere to international fair trial standards. The Lebanese government is in breach of international human rights law for allowing the Military Court to continue adopting a non-military tasks and try civilians.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> NGOs without consultative status ALEF – Act for Human Rights (ALEF), partner in Lebanon, and IKV Pax Christi, member organisation in the Netherlands, share the views expressed in this statement.