

NEWSLETTER

CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES

Issue: December 2024 - April 2025



TOP NEWS OF THE NEWSLETTER

LAUNCH OF THE TRIPOLI REHABILITATION CENTRE



READ MORE

In December 2024, CCLS officially launched the Tripoli Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture — a safe, comprehensive support hub offering medical care, psychological services, physiotherapy, legal assistance, and medication. The centre has already begun receiving and assisting victims from across North Lebanon.

READ MORE



In the past four months, CCLS has actively defended human rights, advocated for justice, and supported victims of violations in Lebanon and beyond. Our work addressed urgent cases, deportation, enforced disappearances, irregular migration, judicial independence, and freedom of expression. We issued joint statements, contributed to international forums, and published critical reports on refugees, torture and legal violations in Lebanon.

CEDAR ACTIVITIES, JOINT LETTERS, CASES AND REPORTS

REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

>>> TRIPOLI-LEBANON

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) is opening its Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture in Tripoli, North Lebanon. Officially launching in December 2024, this center marks a significant step in CCLS's commitment to providing essential support and services to individuals who have endured torture and ill-treatment.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Medical Consultation
- Physiotherapy
- Psycho-Social Support
- Legal Assistance

HOTLINE:
81-490607

Guided by a firm dedication to human rights and social justice, the center offers comprehensive, multidisciplinary care to help survivors rebuild their lives. Services include medical consultations, physiotherapy, psychological support, legal assistance, access to essential medicines, diagnostic tests, and tailored treatment plans. CCLS's specialized team ensures that survivors receive holistic and survivor-centered care that promotes physical, psychological, and social well-being.



CASE STUDY

ABDULRAHMAN AL-QARADAWI'S CASE

>>> DEPORTATION

In January 2025, CCLS raised urgent concerns regarding the arrest and possible forced extradition of Abdulrahman Al-Qaradawi to Egypt, where he faces the risk of torture and unfair trial. Our team issued international appeals and advocacy statements on his behalf.

Explore our detailed case study on Abdulrahman Al-Qaradawi:
[Read the full case study here](#)

>>> DISAPPEARANCE OF ABDULHAMID KHATEEB

On 11 January 2025, we publicized the case of AbdulHamid Khateeb, a young Syrian man who disappeared while attempting irregular migration with 45 others through Libya to Europe. His story represents countless others lost on dangerous migration routes.

The case sheds light on the dangers of irregular migration, the ongoing risks faced by migrants in Libya, and the relentless advocacy efforts by CCLS on behalf of the families.

[Read the full case study here](#)

CCLS EFFORT

The Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) has played a vital role in gathering information and advocating for accountability from the Libyan authorities.

Activities

06 FEBRUARY



Speeches from survivors like Ghazi Kaddour and legal experts such as Mohammad Sabloun highlighted the ongoing injustice, lack of accountability, and dismissed legal cases surrounding these incidents. The Cedar Centre continues to push for investigations, compensation, and recognition of the victims as martyrs of the Lebanese Army, through legal action and proposed legislation.

Public Solidarity for the Missing and Dead at Sea

On the International Day of Commemoration for the Dead and Missing at Borders and at Sea, the Cedar Centre for Legal Studies held a solidarity event at Bahsas Roundabout in Tripoli. It gathered officials, civil society groups, and families of victims lost in sea crossings, especially the tragedies of the April, Cyprus, and Tartous boats, to honor their memory and demand justice.



The event also featured personal addresses from families of the missing and artistic tributes, including a live painting by Mohammad Al-Abrash. The Cedar Centre reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing justice and legislative reforms, including a proposed law to classify the victims as martyrs of the Lebanese Army. The gathering concluded with group photos around the commemorative painting, marking a collective demand for truth and accountability.

[Read more here.](#)

ADVOCACY

Report on Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Between Discriminatory Policies, Hate Speech and the “Death Boats”

In December 2024, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies released a report titled "Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Between Discriminatory Policies, Hate Speech, and the 'Death Boats'", highlighting the legal gaps, rising hate speech, and dangerous sea migrations facing Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

For a detailed understanding, you can read the full report [here](#).



Submitted contribution to the UN on the phenomenon of missing migrants in the Mediterranean!

Report on Legal Violations in Lebanon: Torture, Enforced Disappearances, and Violations of Detainees' Rights (September 2023 – May 2024)

Trial Monitoring Report of Bashar Abed Saoud Case

In December 2024, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies contributed to the United Nations Human Rights Council's 59th session, addressing the phenomenon of missing migrants in the Mediterranean. The report, co-submitted with other civil society organizations, highlights the growing crisis of migrant disappearances and the lack of adequate state involvement in identifying and searching for missing individuals.

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies published "Report on Legal Violations in Lebanon" (Sept 2023–May 2024), highlighting rising torture, enforced disappearances, and detainee rights violations amid Lebanon's crises, while documenting and advocating for accountability.

[The full report](#)

This report highlights serious procedural flaws in the trial of Bashar Abed Saoud, a Syrian refugee who died under torture in 2022. Despite being the first case under Lebanon's Anti-Torture Law, delays and rejected evidence raise concerns over justice and accountability.

[Trial Monitoring Report of Bashar Abed Saoud Case](#)

For more details, read the full report [here](#)

Advocacy for Judicial Independence

In March 2025, CCLS joined a joint statement with Lebanese and international organizations calling for judicial independence in the Beirut Port explosion investigation, demanding an end to political obstruction and protection of judicial integrity.

[The full statement.](#)

Solidarity with Daraj & Megaphone

Also in March 2025, CCLS expressed solidarity with Daraj and Megaphone media platforms, rejecting defamation lawsuits and harassment targeting independent journalism and freedom of expression in Lebanon.

[Full statement.](#)

NGOs Urge AIMC to End Role in Transnational Repression

Human rights groups, including Cedar Centre, call on the Arab Interior Ministers' Council to stop enabling the extradition of peaceful activists like Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi. Despite legal bans, politically motivated extraditions continue across Arab League states. The statement urges reforms to align AIMC practices with international human rights law.

[Full statement.](#)

Torture to Death: Military Justice Fails to Deliver

On 1 November 2024, the Beirut military court convicted State Security officers for torture but dismissed the charge of causing Bashar Abdel Saud's death, despite evidence of severe torture. NGOs, including CCLS, call for accountability and the implementation of Law No. 65/2017 to end impunity.

[Full statement here](#)

Urgent Call for Clarity on Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi's Detention

Human rights organizations have raised concerns about the enforced disappearance of Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, who was extradited from Lebanon to the UAE on January 8, 2025. Since his arrival, his family and legal representatives have been unable to contact him or obtain any official information about his whereabouts or legal status. The organizations are urging UAE authorities to clarify his detention status and ensure his access to legal safeguards and family communication.

[Full statement here](#)



URGENT APPEAL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ABDULRAHMAN YUSUF AL-QARADAWI

Over 35 human rights organizations, including Cedar Centre for Legal Studies, have called on UK and EU officials to urgently intervene in the case of Abdulrahman Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, a poet and activist forcibly disappeared in the UAE since 8 January 2025. His extradition from Lebanon and detention violate international human rights laws. The coalition demands his immediate release, disclosure of his whereabouts, and fair legal protections.

[Read the full statement.](#)



REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR VITCIMS OF TORTURE

Since its official launch in December 2024, the Tripoli Rehabilitation Centre has been actively supporting victims of torture, providing:

93 Psychological Support Sessions

16 Physiotherapy and Medical services

15 Victims of torture

6 Legal cases



**“The centre
has quickly
become a
trusted
resource for
survivors in
North
Lebanon”**



MOVING FORWARD

At a Glance:

December 2024
- April 2025



- 1 new rehabilitation centre launched.
 - 2 cases studies.
 - 1 public solidarity event.
 - 7 joint statements issued.
 - 4 reports published.
 - 15 victims of torture served at the Tripoli Rehabilitation Centre.
- (16 medical and Physiotherapy services, 6 legal cases, and 93 PSS services provided, 1 visit prison).
- 37 cases: 8 deportation and 29 irregular migrations.

↓ In our newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, workshops, reports, and more. Keep Reading!

Contact Us:



+96181-490607
+961 6433288



info@ccls-lebanon.org



ccls-lebanon.org



Al Nour Square, Majida
Building, 4th Floor, Tripoli,
Lebanon.



Social Media: Cedar
Centre for legal studies



Call to Action:

Help us defend dignity, freedom, and human rights in Lebanon:

- Refer victims to our Tripoli Rehabilitation Centre.
- Join our advocacy campaigns and public initiatives.
- Support independent media, victims' families, and survivors of torture.
- Partner with us in promoting justice and legal empowerment.