

# NEWSLETTER

# CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES

Issue: May - August 2025



## TOP NEWS OF THE NEWSLETTER

**CEDARS  
CENTER  
CONTINUES  
SUPPORT TO THE VICTIMS**

**REHABILITATION  
IN  
TO  
TRIPOLI  
PROVIDE**



### READ MORE

The Cedars Center for Legal Studies (CCLS) continues to operate the Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture in Tripoli, a comprehensive and safe facility that provides medical and psychological care, physical therapy, legal support, medication, and financial assistance for certain urgent cases. So far, the centre has been receiving victims from across northern Lebanon and continues to offer its services consistently and free of charge.

### READ MORE



Between May and August 2025, the Cedars Center for Legal Studies (CCLS) continued its efforts in defending human rights and promoting justice, providing ongoing support to victims both within Lebanon and abroad. The center focused its work on urgent issues such as forced deportation, enforced disappearance, irregular migration, judicial independence, and freedom of expression. It also issued joint statements, contributed to the advancement of international conventions, and published rigorous reports addressing the conditions of refugees and migrants, as well as torture and legal violations in Lebanon.

**ACTIVITIES  
OF  
THE  
CEDARS CENTER,  
STATEMENTS,  
STUDIES, AND REPORTS**

**JOINT  
CASE**

# REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE PROGRAMS

Through its diverse programs, the Cedars Center for Legal Studies seeks to promote human rights and protect the most vulnerable groups in Lebanon, including adult and minor victims of torture. The Cedars Center believes in the importance of providing comprehensive legal support and sustainable rehabilitation services for them, as well as protecting refugees and irregular migrants, to ensure their dignity and empower them to reclaim their lives with peace and justice.

## **1. Rehabilitation Program for Victims of Torture**

Providing high-quality and sustainable rehabilitation services for victims of torture.

Addressing the unlawful use of force and supporting survivors through rehabilitation.

## **2. Legal Support Program and Protection of the Most Vulnerable Groups**

Providing legal support to victims of torture, including minors.

Enhancing legal assistance for Syrian refugees and irregular migrants in Lebanon, amid escalating regional conflicts.

Strengthening the protection of the most vulnerable groups and supporting victims of trafficking in northern Lebanon.







## 1. SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

The project focuses on strengthening legal support and defending the rights of Syrian refugees and irregular migrants in Lebanon amid escalating regional conflict. It includes:

- Providing legal consultations to refugees and irregular migrants.
- Advocacy before local courts for victims and those threatened with deportation.
- Networking with local and international civil society organizations and advocacy through the United Nations.
- Producing and publishing legal studies and reports to enhance the protection of human rights.

## 2. REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

The project aims to provide comprehensive support to victims, covering medical, psychological, social, and legal aspects:

- Medical Consultations: Continuous healthcare and treatment of long-term injuries resulting from torture.
- Physical Therapy: Restoration of movement, strength, and physical well-being for survivors.
- Psychosocial Support: Individual sessions to help victims and their families cope with trauma and enhance resilience.
- Legal Support: Legal representation and guidance for detainees and victims of torture in accordance with Anti-Torture Law No. 65/2017 to ensure access to justice.

## 4. ADDRESSING THE UNLAWFUL USE OF FORCE AND SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

The project aims to address violence and abuse by police and official authorities, with a focus on rehabilitation, and includes:

- Providing psychological, legal, and social rehabilitation services to survivors.
- Advocating for police reforms based on human rights principles.
- Promoting public awareness through advocacy campaigns to prevent future violations and support survivors.

## 3. PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTHERN LEBANON

The project focuses on supporting and protecting vulnerable groups, particularly victims of human trafficking and migrants, through:

- Raising community awareness about the risks associated with human trafficking.
- Providing specialized psychosocial support to survivors to aid in their recovery.
- Promoting respect for dignity and human rights within the local community.

# Helpline



81-490607

# CASE STUDY

## FROM PAIN TO RECOVERY: COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND THEIR FAMILIES

### >>> TORTURE

In May 2025, we published the case of X, a young Lebanese man who was subjected to torture during his detention. His parents turned to the Cedars Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture in Tripoli, where they received comprehensive psychological, social, and legal support that helped them cope with the trauma and stand by their son until he regained his freedom.

This case highlights the lack of effective implementation of victims' right to rehabilitation under Law 65/2017, and the vital role played by the CCLS Center in bridging this gap by providing holistic support to victims and their families.

Read the full [case study](#) here.

### >>> BETWEEN THE RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

In May 2025, we published a case study on the circular issued by the Tripoli Bar Association, which restricts lawyers from appearing in the media or criticizing the judiciary without prior authorization. The study highlights how this circular violates freedom of expression and the independence of the legal profession, specifically targeting lawyers who defend human rights.

It also outlines the advocacy efforts led by the Cedars Center for Legal Studies (CCLS), including submitting the case to United Nations mechanisms.

You can read the [full case study on the CCLS website](#).

## CCLS EFFORTS

**The Cedars Center contributed to supporting victims of torture and protecting freedom of expression and the independence of lawyers.**

## The April Boat Tragedy: Between Proving the Disappearance and Seeking Justice

On April 23, 2022, a boat carrying around 80 migrants sank off the coast of Qalamoun in Tripoli, Lebanon, resulting in the death and disappearance of many. Survivors reported that the incident was caused by the intervention of a patrol boat belonging to the Lebanese forces, which led to a collision and the sinking of the vessel. Despite lawyers—led by the Legal Support Program Director at the Cedars Center for Legal Studies—filing a criminal complaint against 13 members of the naval forces, the case was dismissed without any legal action.

On June 19, 2025, lawyers from the Cedars Center met with Prime Minister Nawaf Salam to demand an independent investigation and accountability for those responsible.

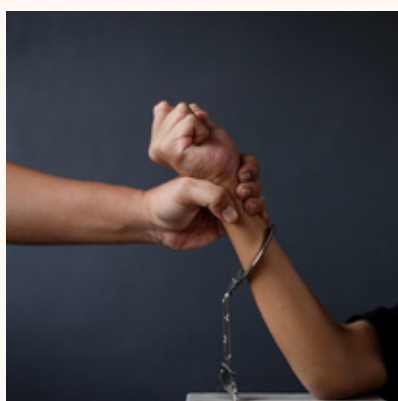
To follow the full case study, click [this detailed report from CCLS](#).



### From Torture to Hope

In July 2025, we published the story of Moaz Mourab, who spent 18 years in Syrian prisons and was subjected to torture. He later received psychological and social support from the Cedars Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture in Tripoli, which helped him reclaim his life and launch a home-based cooking project.

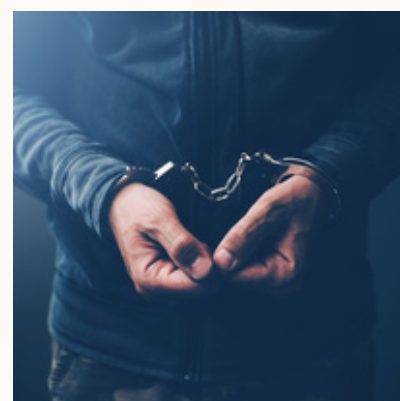
[Read the full case study.](#)



### Two Minors Victims of Torture in Chekka: A Call for Justice

In August 2025, we published a case study about the torture of minors in Chekka by security personnel, which included forcing them to sign false confessions and the detention of their parents. The Cedars Center intervened legally, and the necessary medical examinations and testimonies were conducted to demand an investigation and hold those responsible accountable.

[Read the full case study.](#)



### VTC39: From Torture to Safety and Psychological Support

In August 2025, we published a case study about a young Lebanese man (VTC39) who was arrested in March 2025 and subjected to torture during his detention. The Cedars Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture intervened swiftly, providing legal and psychological support, which contributed to posting bail and securing his release. He was then granted safety and the necessary care for physical, psychological, and social recovery.

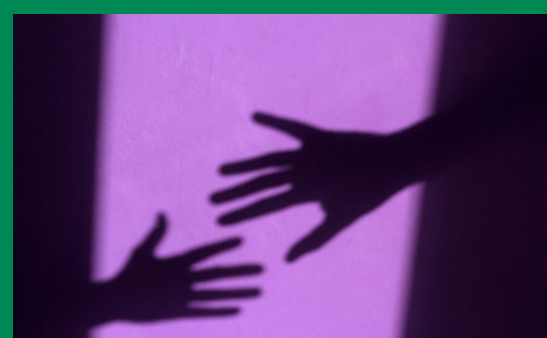
You can read the full [case study](#) here.

## Protection of Minors After Torture: A Story of Hope!

On August 25, 2025, the Cedars Center for Legal Studies published a case study titled "Ensuring Rights and Rehabilitation: The Journey of a Lebanese Minor After Torture". It recounts the story of a 15-year-old Lebanese boy who was arrested on August 6, 2025, in connection with a misdemeanor involving gunfire. During his detention, he was subjected to physical torture.

The Cedars Center intervened swiftly, providing both legal and psychological support, which contributed to securing his release and safeguarding his rights while protecting him from further abuse.

This case underscores the critical importance of timely and effective intervention to protect the rights of minors and ensure accountability for those responsible for violations.



Read the full [case study](#) here



## ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE: CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN LEBANON



During the event, lawyer Mohammad Sabloun, Director of the Legal Department at the Center, presented documented cases of torture, highlighting the Lebanese judiciary's failure to prosecute perpetrators. The importance of adopting the "Istanbul Protocol" as a reference for documenting torture in Lebanon was also emphasized.

A powerful video was screened, telling the story of Syrian youth Bashar Abed Al-Saud, who died under torture after being detained by a Lebanese security agency—sparking widespread human rights outrage.

### Public Solidarity with the Missing and Dead at Sea and Borders

On June 26, 2025, the Cedars Center for Legal Studies organized an event in Beirut to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The gathering brought together judges, parliamentarians, lawyers, academics, and representatives from international human rights organizations. The event aimed to reaffirm Lebanon's commitment to combating torture and achieving justice for victims.



The event highlighted the urgent need to hold perpetrators of torture in Lebanon accountable and to activate both international and domestic laws to ensure victims' rights. This includes providing legal and psychological support, professionally documenting violations, and promoting a culture of non-impunity to protect society and uphold human rights.

To read [more](#).



# Advocacy

## Lawyer Mohammed Sabloun's testimony on the condition of Syrian prisons under the Assad regime

The Cedars Center for Legal Studies published the testimony of lawyer Mohammad Sabloun on the conditions of Syrian prisons under the Assad regime. The testimony is based on a human rights delegation's visit to Damascus to monitor the situation of detainees and document violations, including torture and unlawful detention. It includes recommendations to the international community for holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring victims' rights.

You can read the [full testimony on the CCLS website](#).



## Universal Periodic Review Report on the Human Rights Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon – 2025

The Cedars Center for Legal Studies published a 2025 report on the human rights situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, highlighting the deterioration of their legal and social status, systemic discrimination in employment, education, and healthcare, as well as security-related violations. The report offers concrete recommendations to the Lebanese government to ensure the protection of refugees' rights in line with international standards.

For more details, you can read the [full report on the CCLS website](#).

## Lebanon: Addressing Structural Failures in Human Rights Protection

The Cedars Center for Legal Studies published a report titled "Lebanon: Addressing Structural Failures in Human Rights Protection", which focuses on systemic challenges such as torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and political interference in the judiciary. The report offers detailed recommendations to strengthen accountability, protect victims, and ensure Lebanon's compliance with international standards.

You can access the [full report on the CCLS website](#).

## Civil Rights and Liberties – Lebanon's 4th Cycle UPR Review (July 2025)

The Cedars Center for Legal Studies focused its report on civil rights and freedoms in Lebanon—submitted for the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review—on documenting violations in key areas such as the right to life, judicial independence, migrant rights, and enforced disappearance. The report highlights the Lebanese state's failure to implement previous recommendations and stresses the urgent need for reforms to strengthen justice and protect fundamental rights.

You can access the [full report on civil rights and freedoms in Lebanon – UPR Fourth Cycle](#).



## **200 Days of Abdulrahman Yusuf's Enforced Disappearance: Reveal His Whereabouts. Ensure His Safety. Release Him Now**

Human rights organizations, including the Cedars Center for Legal Studies, express deep concern over the continued enforced disappearance of Abdel Rahman El-Qaradawi, who has been missing for more than 200 days. He was detained in Lebanon and forcibly deported without any information about his whereabouts or condition, and without contact with his family or lawyer.

The prolonged lack of disclosure about his fate constitutes a blatant violation of international law, particularly human rights conventions that prohibit enforced disappearance and classify it as a crime against humanity when practiced systematically.

The organizations emphasize that this case reflects the ongoing suffering endured by victims of enforced disappearance and their families, who are deprived of knowing the fate of their loved ones or communicating with them—amounting to a form of psychological torture.

They further stress the urgent need to reveal Abdel Rahman El-Qaradawi's location, ensure his full legal rights—including access to his lawyer and family, presentation before a competent judge—and hold accountable all those found responsible for this crime.

To read the full statement and the organizations' calls for action, visit the [Cedars Center for Legal Studies website](#).

## **Egypt: Rights Groups Call for End to State Harassment of Human Rights Defender Mohamed Abdel Salam and Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression**

On July 25, 2025, human rights organizations called on Egyptian authorities to stop the harassment of Mohamed Abdel Salam, Executive Director of the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, and to ensure the organization's ability to operate freely. This came after his arbitrary detention and the confiscation of his passport at Cairo Airport, which was later returned without explanation.

This incident is not the first; Abdel Salam and the organization have previously been repeatedly targeted, including passport confiscations, surveillance of the organization's offices, and complications in opening a bank account and obtaining funding under Law No. 149/2019 on associations.

The organizations considered these measures to be arbitrary restrictions on freedom of association, stressing that Egypt must respect its international obligations and ensure the protection of human rights defenders instead of persecuting or restricting them.

Read the [full statement](#) here.



## **LEBANON: SEVEN YEARS OF ENACTING A TORTURE LAW WITHOUT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

A group of human rights organizations, including the Cedars Center, expressed concern in a joint statement over the continued impunity for torture crimes in Lebanon, despite the adoption of the Anti-Torture Law in 2017. The statement pointed to the dismissal of most complaints, improper referral of cases to military courts, and lenient rulings in prominent cases such as the death of Syrian refugee Bashar Abed Al-Saud and the deportation of dissident Abdel Rahman El-Qaradawi.

The statement included urgent recommendations calling for independent investigations, the adoption of the "Istanbul Protocol" as a national reference, amendments to Law 65/2017, and enabling the National Human Rights Commission to carry out its duties—alongside support for torture victims and refugees.

To read the [full statement](#).





## CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES (CCLS)

The Cedars Center in Tripoli has so far been able to provide its services to approximately:

**403**

Psychosocial Support Session

**148**

Medical Consultation  
and Physical Therapy

**51**

Victims of torture

**25**

legal cases

**12**

File of Deportation and  
Enforced Disappearance

**31**

Irregular migration

"As services expanded and the number of beneficiaries increased, the center quickly became a trusted reference point for survivors and victims of torture in northern Lebanon, where they find the care and support needed to rebuild their lives."



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## 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.