

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) is a civil, non-profit NGO established in 2013. It is an independent, non-sectarian centre unaffiliated with any political party, dedicated to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

CCLS works to strengthen legal protections for refugees, migrants, and survivors of torture. Its mandates include addressing torture and arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and violations of migrants' and refugees' rights. Through its legal support programs and its rehabilitation centre for victims of torture, CCLS seeks to improve detention practices, advance accountability, and uphold justice and dignity.

01: TORTURE AND ARBITRARY DETENTION:

- **49** torture cases documented by CCLS (September 2023–October 2025).
- All complaints under **Law 65/2017** were referred to military courts with no effective investigations.
- Overcrowding at **200%** capacity; **67%** of prisoners are unsentenced.
- Highlights lack independence and accountability within the military justice system

02: ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE:

- CCLS documented and submitted over **17** recent **enforced disappearance** cases to the competent Lebanese authorities, yet no investigations have been opened to date.
- Includes the case of **Abdel-Rahman Al Qaradawi**, deported to the UAE in 2025 and still disappeared.
- Around **17,000** people remain missing since the civil war.

03: MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND REFUGEES:

- **63** deportation cases documented since November 2023, mostly Syrian men.
- Over **200 irregular migration cases** involving Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians.
- Continued deportations without due process violate the principle of non-refoulement.
- Tragic sea journeys: **Tripoli 2022 boat sinking** and Dec 2023 disappearance (**85 migrants**).



RECOMMENDATIONS

Through its research, advocacy, awareness efforts, events, campaigns, and community engagement, CCLS has collected extensive recommendations from stakeholders. These insights highlighted critical gaps in the justice system and underscored the urgent need to strengthen legal safeguards, ensure accountability, and protect vulnerable populations. These recommendations respond directly to stakeholder-identified challenges, guiding CCLS's efforts to promote accountability and protect human rights.

In response to these identified needs, stakeholders emphasized the following key reforms to reinforce Rule of Law and Judicial Independence:

1. Adopt a law on judicial independence aligned with international standards.
2. Restrict military court jurisdiction to military personnel for military offenses only.
3. Ensure full access to case files, proceedings, and legal representation in all cases.
4. Amend Article 59(b) of the Military Judicial Law to prevent reprisals against lawyers.

Torture and Arbitrary Detention:

- Amend Law 65/2017 to abolish the statute of limitations, broaden the definition of torture, and ensure all cases are handled by civilian courts.
- Publish the SPT's 2010 and 2022 reports and commit to implementing recommendations transparently.
- Submit all overdue reports to CAT and ICCPR, recognize CAT's competence under Article 22.
- Fully enforce Article 47 across all security agencies and establish independent oversight.
- Improve detention conditions by reducing overcrowding and guaranteeing access to medical and psychosocial care.
- Fully implement Articles 108 and 111 of the Criminal Procedure Code to expedite trials and facilitate pretrial release.
- Adopt alternatives to detention, including electronic monitoring.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE:

- Fully operationalize Law 105/2018; fund and staff the NCMFD and implement Article 37 criminalizing enforced disappearance.
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Establish coordination mechanisms with Syria, civil society, and international bodies to trace disappeared persons.
- Strengthen cooperation with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Refugees:

- Adopt by 2027 a national asylum and migration law guaranteeing due process and prohibiting refoulement.
- Ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
- Suspend all deportations until individual risk assessments are conducted with UNHCR.
- Establish a joint monitoring mechanism with UN agencies and civil society to ensure safe and voluntary returns.
- Combat hate speech and discrimination; simplify residency and work permit procedures.
- Strengthen search-and-rescue operations and develop safe, legal migration pathways, including humanitarian corridors and labor mobility schemes.