

NEWSLETTER

CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES

Issue: January 2026- August 2026



TOP NEWS OF THE NEWSLETTER

KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN: CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES CONTINUES ITS MISSION OF CARE AND SUPPORT



Between January and July 2026, the Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) remained actively engaged in promoting human rights and advancing justice in Lebanon and beyond. The Centre focused on pressing issues including deportation, enforced disappearance, irregular migration, judicial independence, freedom of expression, and violations against refugees and migrants. It also strengthened its advocacy through joint statements, cases studies, international activities, symbolic sit-ins, contributions to international conventions, and in-depth reports on torture and other human rights violations in Lebanon.

Following the sudden outbreak of war in Lebanon in March 2026, and for the first time, CCLS launched a Rapid Response Project to address the immediate needs of displaced communities in shelters across Tripoli and North Lebanon, providing humanitarian and psychosocial support.

Despite Lebanon's ongoing security, economic, and funding challenges, the CCLS Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Tripoli remains open, receiving cases and providing free rehabilitation, medical, psychological, physical, and legal support. Over 2 years, the Centre has become a safe haven not only for victims of torture, but also for refugees, irregular migrants and their families, victims of trafficking and exploitation, survivors of enforced disappearance, and others facing violence and human rights violations.

Despite limited resources, the Centre continues to rely on the expertise, commitment, and dedication of its team to maintain essential services. At the same time, CCLS is exploring alternative funding sources and partnerships to ensure the Centre's continuity and preserve a safe space where vulnerable people can access rehabilitation, care, protection, and support.



ACTIVITIES OF THE CEDAR CENTER, JOINT STATEMENTS, CASE STUDIES, AND REPORTS:

HOLISTIC REHABILITATION & SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

1. Medical Consultations: Continuous healthcare and treatment of long-term injuries resulting from torture.
2. Physical Therapy: Restoration of movement, strength, and physical well-being for survivors.
3. Psychosocial Support: Individual sessions to help victims and their families cope with trauma and enhance resilience.

LEGAL PROTECTION, DOCUMENTATION & GLOBAL ADVOCACY:

1. Legal Assistance & Representation: Pro bono legal guidance for detainees and refugees to prevent arbitrary detention and unlawful deportation.
2. Case Documentation: Maintaining rigorous records of torture cases, enforced disappearances, and irregular migration cases.
3. UN & International Advocacy: Reporting directly to UN bodies and organizing high-level side events, roundtables, and joint statements to demand accountability.
4. Monitoring & Awareness: Active monitoring of prison conditions and leading public awareness campaigns, such as the February 6th International Day for Missing Migrants.



THE RESPONSE PROJECT – “STRONGER TOGETHER” CAMPAIGN

CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES 2026



Since the outbreak of the latest war in Lebanon in March 2026, Cedar Center for Legal Studies has been implementing the Response Project, an emergency humanitarian, legal, and psychosocial intervention aimed at supporting individuals and families affected by the conflict and its consequences.

Through the implementation of the project, the **“Stronger Together”** Campaign was launched to mobilize additional support and strengthen collective efforts to respond to the evolving needs of communities affected by the crisis. The campaign supports the project’s overall response by facilitating access to humanitarian assistance, legal support, psychosocial services, and protection mechanisms.

The project was developed in response to the urgent needs of people forced to flee their homes due to the war, particularly those displaced from southern Lebanon and Beirut and accommodated in shelters and temporary places of residence. It seeks to provide immediate assistance while addressing the longer-term legal, psychosocial, and protection challenges resulting from displacement, loss of housing, and disruption of stability and access to essential services.

The implementation of the project extended across several areas of North Lebanon, including Tripoli, Akkar, Batroun, Koura and Zgharta, Dennieh, Beirut among other locations. Through field interventions and outreach activities, Cedar Center for Legal Studies worked to identify the most urgent needs of displaced and vulnerable families and provide them with direct assistance and support.

The “Response” Project and the “Stronger Together” Campaign remain ongoing and are planned to continue until September 2026.



Psychosocial support

The project also provided individual and group psychosocial support sessions, offering a safe space for children, women and other vulnerable individuals to express their concerns, cope with distress and strengthen their ability to deal with the consequences of displacement, loss and instability.

The project served both Lebanese and Syrian displaced communities, without discrimination and according to identified needs. Its scope also extended to families in Tripoli who lost their homes following the collapse or structural deterioration of the buildings in which they lived, as well as families who were forced to evacuate their homes after their buildings were declared unsafe and at risk of collapse. These families faced the sudden loss of shelter and significant humanitarian, social and economic needs, and were therefore included among the beneficiaries of the project's assistance and support.

The response also reached refugee seekers residing in North Lebanon, including members of the Syrian Alawite minority who were forced to leave their areas in Syria and crossed into Lebanon by way of the river. In Al-Hayssa, this included 507 families displaced from Syria due to sectarian persecution, as well as 161 Alawite families living among the graves in Al-Hayssa cemetery. In addition, 244 individuals living around the camp in houses, shops, farmland, or tents benefited from food distribution.

The project extended humanitarian assistance, legal consultations and psychosocial support to these refugees, with particular attention to families and individuals facing heightened vulnerabilities and limited access to essential services.

The humanitarian response included the distribution of food parcels, drinking water, cleaning and disinfection supplies, women's dignity kits, medicines, infant formula, diapers and essential items for children and persons with disabilities or other special needs. The project also provided clothing, particularly for children, as well as cash assistance to families facing particularly difficult living and economic conditions.

In addition to material assistance, the project incorporated a strong legal protection and psychosocial support component. Free legal consultations were provided to displaced and affected individuals to help them understand their rights, access available legal mechanisms and address issues arising from displacement, housing insecurity and other vulnerabilities.





PROJECT TARGET

During the project implementation period, a total of 53 centers were targeted across North Lebanon. These included a diverse range of facilities, reflecting the project's broad geographical and institutional coverage. The targeted locations comprised 8 prisons, police stations, and detention facilities, in addition to 8 municipalities. The remaining 37 locations were shelter centers distributed across different areas of North Lebanon.

Overall, the project reached 53 centers, including shelters, municipalities, and correctional and detention facilities, ensuring coverage across the different areas of North Lebanon.

1,151
FOOD PACKAGES



1,200
HYGIENE KITS AND
ESSENTIAL ITEMS

303
ESSENTIAL
MEDICATIONS





460

KIDS/BABY SUPPLIES

500

DRINKING WATER



85

CASH ASSISTANCE

70

PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORT SESSIONS



LEGAL CONSULTATIONS
FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES

Between January till August 2026, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) conducted case studies with torture survivors, migrants, and refugees.

During this period, participants received comprehensive support, spanning legal aid, rehabilitation, recovery, and strong advocacy efforts to amplify their voices and defend their rights. These initiatives underscore Cedar's enduring commitment to protecting vulnerable communities, advancing justice, and championing human rights at every level.

- This case concerns the enforced disappearance and then arbitrary detention of a 30-year-old Lebanese citizen, referred to in this case as UNVT-0020. He is a Lebanese Brazilian national and works as an engineer. [Link](#) of the full case study.
- A New Enforced Disappearance Case in Lebanon and Cedar Centre Takes Action. [Link](#) if the full case study.
- When Listening Saves Lives: VTC36's Turning Point with Cedar Centre. [Link](#) of the full case study.
- Lebanon's Justice on Trial: The Torture of a Minor in Tripoli Reveals Systemic Gaps. [Link](#) of case.
- From Ten Months of Detention in Lebanon to Acquittal in Greece: The Case of a Syrian Detainee and the Role of Cedar Centre for Legal Studies in Defending His Rights. [Link](#) of full case.
- The Death of Mohammad Harkous in Custody: Seeking Truth, Justice and Accountability. [Link](#) of case.

Case Studies



**"In Custody, Mohamad Died.
CCLS demands Justice"..**

*"Every case is a step
forward toward
healing, hope, and a
dignified life".*

FROM TRIPOLI, CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES COMMEMORATES THE VICTIMS OF “DEATH BOATS” AND CONTINUES SUPPORTING SURVIVORS



On 6 February 2026, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies organized an event to honor the memory of those who lost their lives or went missing at sea and along borders. The event took place at the Abjad Theater on Syria Street – Al-Tebbaneh, Tripoli. It was attended by MPs from Tripoli, including MP Ashraf Rifi, a representative of MP Ihab Matar, Mr. Yehya Haddad, and a representative of MP Karim Kabbara, Mr. Sami Reda, as well as former MP Misbah Al-Ahdab. The National Human Rights Commission, represented by Ms. Reda Azar of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Representatives of civil society associations and organizations also participated, including the Rene Moawad Foundation, alongside media representatives and the families of victims of “death boats” in Tripoli and families of missing persons. Read [more](#).

Side event in Geneva - “The Role of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Promoting Human Rights and Combating Torture in Lebanon”

On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS), with the support of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Beirut, organized a side event titled “The Role of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Promoting Human Rights and Combating Torture in Lebanon” at the Geneva Press Club on 26 June 2026.

Read [more](#).



Participation of Cedar Centre for Legal Studies in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Paris

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies is taking part in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in the French capital Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2026. The congress brings together legal experts, civil society organizations, academics, and decision-makers from around the world to discuss international efforts aimed at abolishing the death penalty and strengthening the protection of the right to life.

The Centre's participation is part of the congress activities, which include panel discussions, workshops, and side events, along with the Cultural Programme, an extension of the legal and human rights debates through art, memory, and human testimonies to highlight the human impact of the death penalty.

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



Call for the Resumption of the Periodic Review of the Republic of Lebanon

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) and Alkarama Foundation (ALK) call on the United Nations Committee against Torture to resume the periodic review of Lebanon, which has been pending since the Committee's last examination in 2017.

For more details, you can read the full letter [here](#).

On the Occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, briefing on the Reality of Torture in the Arab World

The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture falls this year at a defining moment, as the Arab region witnesses a sharp and unprecedented erosion of the fundamental legal guarantees protecting individuals from abuse. Torture has ceased to be a matter of isolated practices or individual violations subject to investigation; in numerous contexts, it has been transformed into a structural instrument institutionally employed to manage prisons and detention centres, control public space, and silence voices of dissent and human rights defenders.

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

CCLS Submission to OHCHR on Counter-Terrorism Law, Organized Crime and Human Rights

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) submitted this report to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in response to the Call for Inputs on Counter-Terrorism Law, Organized Crime and Human Rights. The submission is based on documented CCLS casework in Lebanon involving security-led detention, migration-related allegations, military jurisdiction, and allegations of torture.

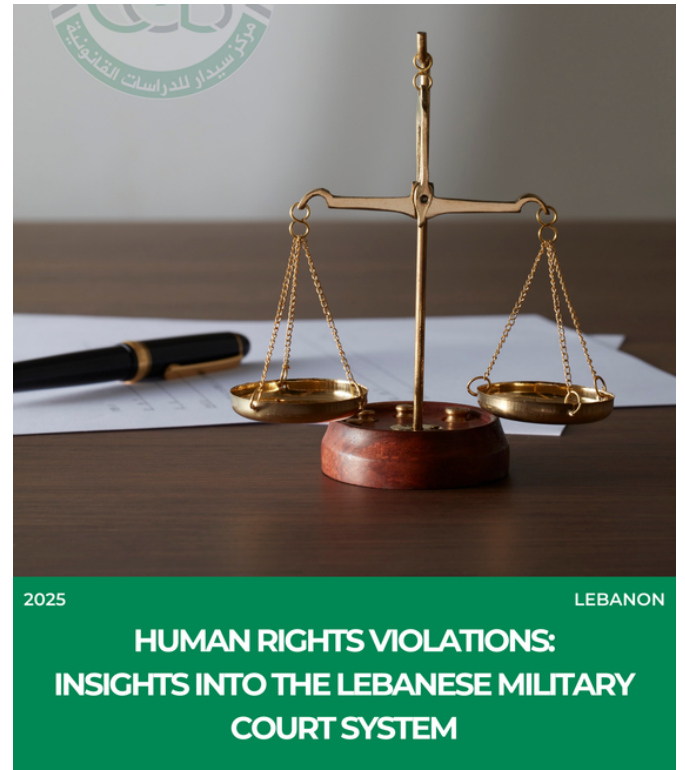
You can access the full [submission](#) on the CCLS website.

CCLS REPORTS

Report on human rights violations: insights into the Lebanese military court system

In the ongoing debate among politicians and human rights activists regarding the reform of the military justice and its jurisdiction, the law continues to allow civilians to be tried before military courts. Such trials deprive civilians of essential judicial safeguards, as military judges often fail to provide explanations for their decisions, thereby shielding the judiciary from meaningful legal oversight. This debate is divided between two main positions.

[Full report.](#)



CEDAR CENTRE FOR LEGAL STUDIES (CCLS) REPORT ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS IN LEBANON

Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) submitted its report on judicial appointments in Lebanon to the UN Special Rapporteur on Judicial Appointments on 16 January 2026. The submission documents how political and sectarian influence dominate the appointment process, undermining transparency, merit, and judicial independence. It highlights the absence of safeguards, delays in appointments, lack of civil society participation, and failures to uphold human rights obligations under the Anti-Torture Law, ICCPR, and CAT.

[Full report.](#)

CEDAR REACH 2026



“In 2026, Cedar Centre continued to expand its humanitarian and protection response in Northern Lebanon, providing support to survivors and victims of torture, refugees, migrants, and other vulnerable individuals facing protection and humanitarian challenges. Alongside its emergency interventions for displaced families affected by the crisis, the Centre continued to strengthen the role of its Rehabilitation Centre, providing specialized care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support to individuals in need. Through these complementary interventions, Cedar Centre remained committed to addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term recovery, protection, and rehabilitation.”

THROUGH ITS REHABILITATION CENTRE, CEDAR CENTRE IN TRIPOLI HAS TO DATE PROVIDED SERVICES TO APPROXIMATELY:

16 VICTIMS OF TORTURE

have received rehabilitation services at Cedar Centre.

153 PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SESSION

Reached 250 beneficiaries through peer-to-peer and focus group sessions conducted at Cedar Centre and in the field during the emergency response.

161 LEGAL CASES

These 161 cases relate to irregular migration, torture, deportation, and enforced disappearance. The legal services provided by Cedar Centre for legal Studies:

- Case Follow-up: Continuous monitoring of legal cases, ensuring timely updates and actions.
- Court Attendance: Representation and support during hearings.
- Legal Representation: Arranging lawyers and managing powers of attorney.
- Applications: Preparation and submission of legal requests, appeals, and documentation.
- Bail & Release: Assistance with bail applications and follow-up on release procedures.
- Official Communications: Drafting and sending referrals to UNHCR and relevant authorities.
- Legal Guidance: Ongoing advice and support throughout the case process.

Cedar Centre for
Legal Studies (CCLS)

We are served for 12 years
to helpless people with
trust and we are happy...

Scan the barcode to
follow and contact us:



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.