

CD4PEACE – Report on the Universal Periodic Review of Lebanon (HRC 47th session/July 8, 2021 - 09h00-11h00).

Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Lebanon drafted by Ammanuel Delelegn on July 8, 2021.

Main report

Following the 3rd national report of Lebanon of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of January 2021, the 27th meeting at the 47th Regular Session Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the UPR, resolution 47/102 on July 8th 2021 . Member and observer states included *Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia*. The session also gathered other stakeholders such as; *“Ensemble Contre la peine de mort”, “Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies”, “Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom”, “International Volunteerism Organization for Women”, “Education and Development”, “Vides”, “International Commission of Jurists”, “Kiham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture”, “Advocates for Human Rights”, “CIVICUS”, “World Alliance for Citizen Participation”, “Human Rights Watch”, and “Amnesty International”*.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations Office in Geneva **Mr. Salim Baddoura** outlined the progress achieved in implementing UPR recommendations and the persisting social, political, economic, and human rights challenges Lebanon faces. In his opening speech, Mr. Baddoura admitted that his country effectively adopted 179 recommendations out of the 279 put forward by the council, its observer and member states to revive the economy, address governmental corruption and parliamentary related issues, and improve the livelihood of Lebanese civilians as well as migrants and refugees. The ambassador demonstrates these efforts by discussing the key role of civil societies and of its growing influence over the judicial branch and labor laws, where the country made significant strides in protecting the rights of migrants by widening labor laws. Since the 3rd report, 285 domestic workers have received support to preserve their human rights and dignity, acknowledging however, that more effort must be committed to abolish the inhumane and degrading Kafala system. Moreover, Mr. Baddoura also emphasized the governments’ role in amending religious laws to end marital rape and domestic abuse by raising minimum age for marriage and developing a draft law to effectively criminalize perpetrator of rape. In relation to the challenges faced by the country and its people, the unprecedented ramification of the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the economic and financial crisis, while complicating the lives of Syrian and Palestinian refugees living in camps. The Beirut blast which occurred in August 2020 exposed the degree of corruption and the impact of mismanaging resources throughout decades on the economy, the livelihood of the population and tension within the government. Despite these obstacles, Mr. Baddoura reiterated that Lebanon has made great progress in promoting and preserving fundamental human rights and

freedom and will further uphold these advances to effectively adopt additional recommendations.

The member and observer states each delivered a statement discussing their evaluation of Lebanon's efforts in implementing the recommendations. All participants recognized and commended Lebanon's progress since the 3rd cycle pertaining to economic, cultural, and social rights and in promoting and preserving fundamental freedoms and human rights. Except Israel which saw none of its recommendations adopted, representative **Meirav Eilon Shahar** expressed great concern and disappointment, suggesting that Lebanon suspects the recommendations formulated by Israel are politically motivated and beyond the scope of the UPR. Ms. Eilon further argues that other recommendations which sought to label Hezbollah as a terrorist entity to not recognize them as a party is an issue which was resolved with the Security Council, but not adopted by Lebanon as a recommendation.

Turning to the other participants which also contributed to the Universal Periodic Review report on Lebanon, all **stakeholders** unanimously commended efforts in implementing several recommendations, but put stark emphasis on recommendations only partially accepted. These included amending legislations to achieve gender equality, criminalize marital rape, taking necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, ending all forms of torture, arbitrary detention and death penalty, finalizing the "Standard Unified Contract" for migrant workers, as well as taking further concrete steps towards ratifying and signing the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees. In closing, acknowledging and congratulating Lebanon's commitment to implement most of the recommendations is essential and demonstrates the international community's solidarity and continued support to further entrench the remaining recommendations. It also sends a strong signal to other struggling nations to engineer an international human rights mechanism which promotes and preserves each and everyone's individual social, cultural, economic rights and freedoms.