



AI Index: MDE 18/4392/2021
08 July 2021

-Check against delivery-

ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Lebanon

UN Human Rights Council
47th session
21 June- 13 July 2021

Madame President,

We welcome Lebanon's acceptance of recommendations to implement the anti-torture law, ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, respect the freedoms of expression and assembly, and protect peaceful demonstrators. However, we remain concerned that despite similar commitments in its previous UPR, Lebanon failed to adequately investigate claims of torture and of note that to date, no one has been held accountable despite a number of such claims brought before the judiciary. Since 2019, hundreds of peaceful protestors have been arbitrarily arrested and subjected to torture and ill-treatment as well as other due process violations. Furthermore, Amnesty International documented excessive and disproportionate use of force against peaceful protestors during the protests in 2019 and 2020, including live ammunition, rubber pellets and tear gas.

We welcome Lebanon's acceptance of recommendations to hold accountable those responsible for the August 4 explosion. However, we remain concerned that the domestic investigation carries inherent and systemic flaws that would effectively obstruct its ability to deliver on the state's responsibility to provide redress.

Madame President,

We regret that Lebanon did not commit to abolishing the abusive sponsorship Kafala system and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Kafala continues to put migrant workers at risk, currently exacerbated by the country's multi-fold crises.

We further regret Lebanon's rejection of the recommendations to abolish the death penalty. And we are appalled by the fact that the state has again refused to lift reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and adopt a unified personal status law.

Thank you.