

Mr. Mohamed Safa, Director of Khiam Rehabilitation Center For Victims of Torture has returned to Lebanon after his participation in Lebanon's Universal periodic review session held in Geneva. Mr .Safa emphasized that Lebanon's report 2015 is nothing more than a revised version of the one submitted in 2010. Safa also announced that the 2010 report was relatively better due to the massive downfall in the status of Human Rights in the past recent couple of months specifically that of arbitrary arrests and the repression of peaceful demonstration. Safa, announced that the report submitted on behalf of the Lebanese government by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Naglaa Asaker contained previous recommendations that Lebanon has already accepted and that the failure to implement these recommendations was due to the lack of an official governmental mechanism to ensure that the recommendations are implemented and not due to political unrest as mentioned by the ambassador. The ambassadors speech included several declarations to outline governmental efforts to include civil society however, Safa, declared that the reality was totally opposite and that the Lebanese government via the ministry of foreign affairs refused any talks with civil society representatives and placed forward the UPR report without any discussion and that civil society representatives only got to see it two days before the session via the Human Rights Council's web page. Safaa, also announced that the repression of peaceful protests in Al-Solh Square and violations of freedom of expression was high lightened in the speeches of multiple international delegations that called upon Lebanon to respect the general state of Human Rights. Safa proceeded to declare that Khiam center organized a side event at the Palais des Nations on 5/11/2015 attended by a representative from the Lebanese delegation Hany Al Shaar and representatives from almost 28 foreign

delegations: Norway, Denmark, European Union, Great Britain, Australia and Ireland.

The side event included George Ghaly of Alef, GhassanAbduallah on behalf of Palestina Human Rights Association, Ragy Abdul Sallam on behalf of Syrian refugees and activist Lidia Kanan. Safaa, presented a report that refuted Lebanon's report and displayed the issue of prisons, missing persons, Rights of the people with disabilities, the repression of civil movements and the issue of sectarianism. The Meeting was moderated by Ms.EssataeTewhibeWeldemichaelrepresentative of the International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights in Geneva. Finally, Safa called upon the Lebanese government to continue monitoring the achievements of the previous recommendations and emphasized that civil society organizations should be better united.

Full Report to be found on [www.khiamcenter.org/upr](http://www.khiamcenter.org/upr)

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