



## Opening ceremonie of a medical room at Rachaya Al Wady prison

Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims opened a medical clinic in Rashaya Al Wadi prison, funded by the Australian Embassy in Beirut under the direct aid project on May 15, 2017. The ceremony was attended by Col. Antoine Aoun representative of the General Director of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Emad Osman, Australian Ambassador Glenn Miles, Secretary General of the Khiam Center Mohammed Safa, Rachaya Al Wadi Mayor, Mr. Nabil Al Masri, Judge Yasser Mustafa, Colonel Kamal Al Baalbaki, Commander of the Jenin Brigade, Captain Ayman Wardani, prison director Jihad Zaki.



## Safa from Rachaya al-Wadi prison: The alarm bell rang before the explosion

### Mohamad Safa



First, the Australian Embassy in Beirut, Ambassador Gilen Miles, and the Australian Government should be thanked for the direct aid project in equipping Rachaya El Wadi prison with a medical clinic and various electrical appliances carried out by Khiam Center as part of the health and psychological assistance of detainees in Lebanese prisons.



In 2015, with the support of the Australian Embassy, Jib Jenin prison was equipped with a medical clinic and similar equipment. The direct aid project from the Australian Embassy or projects from other sources fills a great shortage in the Lebanese prisons and contributes to alleviating the suffering of the prisoners, but these projects can not be as important as an alternative to the role of the state and its duties in dealing with one of the chronic social and humanitarian issues that not all successive Lebanese governments could deal with radical.

The Lebanese prisons need everything, suffering from overcrowding, slow trials and poor health situation. It is not surprising that most of the prisons in government institutions do not meet the international standards of prisons.

There are 6,400 prisoners in Lebanon's prisons to date, and during the visits done by the Center in 2016-2017 to a number of prisons, we find the following: For example, in Tyre Prison, 110 prisoners: 75 sentenced and detainees 35, Baalbeck prison: 83 prisoners sentenced and 31 arrested, Nabatieh: number of prisoners 130, 34 sentenced, 96 detainees and number of rooms is 2, Zahle prison for men, accommodates 350 prisoners and has 900, Aley prison 89 prisoners from them 66 detainees.

Common diseases include diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, disc, urinary tract infections, heart problems, ear problems, poor vision, skin diseases, nerves, tooth and gum problems, pulmonary infections.

These samples require accelerated trials and the development of health and psychological care, despite the efforts of the Health Centers of the Health Department of the Internal Security Forces or the humanitarian associations.



(Medical room before the rehabilitation)

In short, the prison problem in Lebanon goes beyond all that is said about it. The main problem is that in the absence of a government plan and a civilized modern project that moves prisons from the traditional concept of a punitive institution of educational, cultural and professional establishment. Most prisons in the world are schools where artists, painters and professionals graduate.

And what happened on April 5, 2017 with former prisoner Issa al-Miqdad, a former criminal who had been out of prison for a month and returned to prison again after the attempted theft to one of the shops in Al-Ouzai, underscores the urgent need to review the current prison law and turn the Lebanese prisons into schools for reform and rehabilitation.



From here from Rachaya al-Wadi prison, the alarm bell rang, calling on the government to give priority to the issue of prisons and to announce a legal and health emergency plan to comprehensively address this chronic issue.



(Medical equipments)

#### Abassador of Austarilia Speech:



Australia's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Glenn Miles, visited today Rashaya El Wadi Prison to unveil the newly established medical centre, as well as inspect kitchen and laundry equipment

funded by the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program through the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Colonel Antoine Aoun representing the Director General of the Internal Security Forces, Major General Imad Othman and Mr Mohamad Safa, Secretary General of Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture.



Also attending were the Head of the Internal Security Detachment of Rashaya El Wadi, the Head of the Prison of Rashaya El Wadi, and other notable figures of the village.

Ambassador Miles commended Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for its efforts to assist detainees and alleviate their hardship, noting that this would assist in rehabilitating prisoners and integrating them back into society on their release. The Embassy funded a similar project in Jeb Janine Prison in 2016 and was pleased to repeat the project this year in Rashaya El Wadi Prison.

“The Embassy is proud to cooperate with the Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture to improve the lives of detainees. We hope our modest contribution today will help improve the quality of life for detainees and reduce the burden on the Internal Security Forces who are working very hard with overly crowded prisons.

The Australian Embassy’s Direct Aid Program targets projects that require a small injection of funds but will have a significant impact on the lives of underprivileged people. Over a hundred organisations have benefited from the program since 2004.



(Kitchen before)

### Colonel Aoun representing General Imad Osman: The civil society initiative is complementary to the state's efforts



It is my honor today to represent Major General Imad Othman, Director General of the Internal Security Forces, and I am also honored to be among you at this event.

They considered the traditional prison sentence for many years as a "closed" world where the prisoner loses all his rights. With the development of punitive philosophy and in line with international conventions and charters of human rights, the rights of the prisoner have acquired





a human character and remarkable attention at the national and global levels. This has been reflected positively on the social view of the punishment, so that it is aimed at eliminating the punishment, reforming and rehabilitating the criminals, so that they will be good citizens when they return to society after the end of their period of deprivation of liberty.

The preservation of the dignity of the humane prisoner with all the consequent safeguarding of his right behind bars (in hygiene, food, medicine ...) has become a priority in countries that uphold human rights and respect their dignity.

Medical care provides for the necessary conditions for physical and psychological health and safety, within the available material resources. NGOs' initiatives remain a complementary step to the state's relentless efforts.



(Kitchen after)

#### List of equipments:

Items	Equipment	Number
	<b>Medical equipments</b>	
1	Examination Table	1
2	Stethoscope Duplex	1
3	Otoscope Kawe Germany	1
4	Digital 3Channel Electocardiograph	1
5	Wall Type big-ben sphygmomano-meter	1
6	ENT Diagnostic set	1
7	Sterilizer Stainles steel 20L	1
8	Cautary 35 watt Korea	1
9	Bipolar forceps for Cautary	1
10	Heath scale RGT 160KG	1
11	Medical Fridge	1
12	Snell eye chart	1
	<b>Electical equipments</b>	
13	Frigider	1
14	Washing Machine	1
15	Dryer Laundry	1



16	Gas stove	1
17	TV	4
18	Fans	4
19	Sport Machine	2

17/5/2017

