



مؤسسة حقوق الإنسان والحق الإنساني (لبنان)
عضو مراسل: الفدرالية الدولية لحقوق الإنسان (باريس)
عضو: برنامج الماجستير في حقوق الإنسان والديموقراطية- جامعة مالطا
ط 8 رقم 803 –وسط بيروت Bloc A-المكتب الرئيسي: بناية ستاركو
الهاتف والفاكس: 9611369813
Email: info@fhhl.org
Website: www.fhhl.org

Press Release- Wednesday 9-6-2010

The Foundation for Human and Humanitarian Rights (Lebanon) held a press conference today on the special courts in Lebanon, as part of its continuous efforts to push for judicial reforms that are grounded in the fundamental values of justice and judicial rights set forth in Human Rights conventions.

Mr. Wael Kheir, the Executive Director of the Foundation, stated that special courts are a characteristic of authoritarian regimes, and that the Military Court, specifically, is a tool to restrict freedoms and undermine them.

Mr. Kheir listed the five reasons that led him to declare that special courts, and specifically the military court, violate the principles of justice, namely:

- 1 - The Military Court is not part of the judicial system in Lebanon, but was created half a century later after the republic was established
- 2 - The Military Court was established with the start of the conflict in Lebanon because of the need for a tool for intimidation
- 3 – The jurisdiction of the Military Court is so wide it's almost unlimited
- 4 - Trials before the Military Court are very brief and its decisions are not explained and corroborated
- 5 – The Military Court is considered illegitimate by international laws and conventions and the recommendations of several international human rights committees and associations

Mr. Kheir introduced the audience to the case of the Human Rights Activist Nour Merheb who declared the illegitimacy of the military court, his non-cooperation and non compliance with its orders. Mr. Kheir said: "What's unique about today's action is that for the first time in Lebanon an individual is standing up for his rights by publicly and non-violently objecting to injustice in the democratic methods used to cause change in developed nations. We hope this position will be replicated."

Human Rights activist Nour Merheb delivered a speech overviewing the history of the military court, reminding of its unfair verdicts and its failure to guarantee the basic legal rights of litigants in the absence of neutrality, integrity, independence, and competence.

Nour also discussed in his speech the legal reasons behind the existence of the Military Court and the fact that Military Court Law is in contradiction with the Lebanese Constitution and the international treaties signed by Lebanon, which is committed to their implementation.

Nour called upon the Lebanese government and the Minister of Justice, Professor Ibrahim Najjar, to propose a summary law that immediately abrogates the authority of the Military Court [other than its disciplinary authority over military personnel], and demanded that the Lebanese parliament adopt and pass that summary law.

Nour ended his speech with the famous saying: “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for *good people to do nothing*.” He hoped that his action would spread and be adopted by others. Nour also thanked all the associations and organizations that supported him, inviting the media and the public to visit the website www.case2769.org for more information about the campaign.

At the end of the event Mr. Kheir called for starting a national campaign to abolish the military court.