



» Lebanon

EMHRN Factsheet: ENP Progress Report 2013

EMHRN summary of ENP Lebanon Progress Report and recommendations for the next report.

Credit: Reuters

In 2013, Lebanon was plagued by security, political and refugee crises. In this challenging context, the European Union (EU) encourages Lebanon to pursue its reforms. While the EU claims that human rights were respected in 2013, it also calls on the Lebanese authorities to enhance their protection, fight against discrimination and adopt the overdue National Human Rights Action Plan announced in 2012. Other recommendations are also made in the following areas:

Freedom of Association, Assembly and Expression

Although the EU expresses concern over the delays in the registration of NGOs and the inconsistency in the consultation processes with civil society, freedom of association and assembly is not considered a top priority for Lebanon. Similarly, intimidation, limitations on freedom of expression (blasphemy and insults against religion) and media freedom are merely cited as matters of concern.

The Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) calls on the EU to prioritise freedom of association, assembly and expression in its next Progress Report.

Gender

The EU calls for reforming Lebanon's nationality law so that women are allowed to pass on their citizenship to their children.

In its next report, EU should call on the Lebanese authorities to:

- *In consultation with civil society, review the recently-adopted domestic violence law which fails to provide adequate protection from all forms of abuse;*
- *Enhance the role of women in public and economic life;*
- *Amend the existing nationality law, achieve 30% representation of women in parliament by 2015 and lift its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).*



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Justice

The ENP Progress Report 2013 identifies judicial reform as a priority, particularly the independence of the judiciary and calls on Lebanon to:

- Reform the judiciary and ensure the independence of judges;
- Restrict the jurisdiction of military courts, improve prison management and detention conditions and fight impunity at all levels;
- Ensure the accountability and democratic control of security forces.

As not all forms of torture are recognised as criminal offences in Lebanon, EMHRN calls on the EU to prioritise the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, .

Migration

The EU prioritises the issue of migrant workers and criticises the Lebanese legal framework relating to the treatment of foreign workers calling the Lebanese authorities to:

- Enhance the protection of human rights and fight all types of discrimination, particularly against vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers;
- Improve the country's response to the presence of refugees from Syria.

EMHRN calls on the EU to:

- *Continue prioritising the improvement of the living conditions for Palestinian refugees, and the full respect of their human rights, and call on the Lebanese government to take measures in this regard;*
- *Examine Lebanon's extra-legal migrant detention practices and recommend remedies accordingly;*
- *Include a clear recommendation for Lebanon to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;*
- *Recognise the rights to family life for migrant workers and take measures against the forced removal of the children of migrant workers born in Lebanon (following a recent decision of the General Security).*

The **Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network** is a network of more than 80 human rights organisations, institutions and individuals based in 30 countries in the Euromed region. The Network is deeply attached to universal human rights principles and convinced of the value of cooperation and dialogue across and within borders.

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