



ADVOCACY & LOBBYING REPORT

2023

Advocacy & Lobbying

INTRODUCTION:

In 2023, the advocacy and lobbying team at Restart Center undertook a comprehensive set of initiatives with a primary emphasis on preventing torture. This effort not only expanded but also intensified its scope of work by incorporating Human Rights Defenders and Non-refoulement into its focal areas.

This strategic enlargement complements the ongoing efforts dedicated to various issues initiated in previous years, showcasing a holistic commitment to advancing human rights in general and protecting persons deprived of their liberty and torture survivors. The execution of these initiatives was made possible through financial backing from the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT RESULTED FROM THE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN 2023



ADVOCACY TOOLS



ADVOCACY TOOLS:

A- Three policy papers:

1. Policy paper on the protection of Human Rights Defenders from reprisals.
2. Policy paper on non-refoulement.
3. Policy paper on the official authorization of non-governmental Organizations to undertake prison monitoring activities.

B- Strategies:

1. First Draft of a National Strategy on Torture Prevention
2. Restart Center Advocacy and Lobbying Strategy

C- One journal on torture prevention that includes nine articles and two documentaries

D- Parliamentary guidelines

E- Checklist for monitoring places of detention

F- One video Journalists Against Torture

CAPACITY BUILDING

6 TRAININGS

130 PARTICIPANTS

National Security Forces

1 TRAINING

18 PARTICIPANTS

- Field workers
- Mental Health Professionals

2 TRAININGS

18 PARTICIPANTS

- Psychologists
- Social Workers

TOPICS COVERED:

- National and International Legal framework on torture and ill-treatment
- Istanbul Protocol
- Monitoring places of detention

ROUND TABLES

1 ROUND TABLE

20 PARTICIPANTS

Human rights organizations, legal institutions, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Working Group on Torture Prevention (WGTP), the national security forces, and relevant ministries.

1 ROUND TABLE

12 PARTICIPANTS

Bar Associations, National Security Forces and Civil Society Organisations

1 ROUND TABLE

10 PARTICIPANTS

Lebanese National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up representatives

1 ROUND TABLE

8 PARTICIPANTS

The Working Group on Torture Prevention (WGTP)

1 ROUND TABLE

7 PARTICIPANTS

OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, Swiss embassy

TOPICS COVERED:

- Lebanon's delay in submitting its periodic report to the Committee Against Torture with Mr. Sebastien Touzé the vice-president of the UNCAT and country rapporteur for Lebanon.
- National consultation towards a draft strategy on Torture Prevention
- Situation of human rights defenders in Lebanon: risks, problems, need for changes in the legal framework.

WORKSHOPS

1 WORKSHOP

10 PARTICIPANTS

Journalists Against Torture

CONFERENCES

1 CONFERENCE

144 PARTICIPANTS
(Lawyers & Law students)

The Working Group on Torture Prevention (WGTP) marked the 26th of June at Tripoli Bar Association.

SYMPOSIUM with WGTP

“Raise Your Voice against Torture”, exhibition to honor victims of torture's fight against the impact of torture on their lives followed by a panel discussion.

Marking the 26th of June at Tripoli Bar Association.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

- Development of campaign messaging and creative concepts;
- Production of captivating main visuals and short videos;
- Social media and content support with static posts, educational reels, and animated videos;
- Creation of a campaign landing page showcasing information, downloadable resources, and petition forms;
- Design and distribution of a poster inspired by Shepard Fairey's style, prominently featuring the number 47 to capture attention and convey a sense of urgency;
- Media news dispatch, including press releases, coverage monitoring, and preparing campaign material for FAQs and Synopsis;
- 1 radio interview
- 2 TV interviews

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



ADVOCACY & LOBBYING



