



**Khiam Center: Graduation Ceremony for thirty trainees in the domain  
against violence**

**Dr. Dureidi: The experience of Khiam Center is a pioneering one in the fight  
against torture and the rehabilitation of its victims across the Southern  
Countries and across the world as well**

**Safa: The standard of the development of any country is the commitment to  
human rights**

Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture made a ceremony at its headquarters on the occasion of the graduation of thirty trainees from doctors and activists in the field of human rights in non-governmental organizations. The trainees were subjected to a training course organized by the Centre from July 4 to July 7 at the UNESCO, funded by the European Union, entitled "**Empowering workers in the field of anti – Torture; techniques of listening, monitoring and documentation**".

The representative of the EC delegation in Lebanon Mrs. Maria Sanchez attended the ceremony and the Secretary General of the Moroccan Center for Democratic Elections and member of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights and the Forum for Truth and Justice, Dr. Ahmed Duraidi, made a speech in which he stressed the importance of the training course in the fight against torture "which coincided with the release of prisoners and remains of martyrs from Israeli jails."

He pointed out that "the liberation of prisoners from Israeli jails is the result of the endurance of the detainees and neither giving up their principles nor bargaining for their freedom and their cause as well as the national and international campaigns for their families and the Lebanese human rights defenders and the world, of which the Follow up Committee and Khiam Center played a central role." He said: "These campaigns made their casue not to be left forgotten, until some favourable geopolitical conditions gave the chance to negotiate for their release. Thousands of strugglers for human rights paved the way for these geopolitical circumstances."

He added: "The experience of Khiam Center is a pioneering one in the fight against torture and the rehabilitation of victims across the Southern countries as well as across the world, it is the first Arab experience in an environment that exercises professionalism in their daily work against torture, without letting of its struggle for volunteering. This spirit of volunteerism emerging from the principles of human rights in its entirety, that the good work side by side to the victims of torture by the Centre established good approaches for combating torture and rehabilitating its victims. This experience should be circulated to other parts of the Southern Countries which are either in democratic transition or less than that. "

**Safa**

The Secretary General of the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for the Victims of Torture; Mohammed Safa, gave a speech in which he referred to the topics addressed by the training session which focused on the development of skills of workers in the area against Torture in addition to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the importance of listening to victims of torture as well as the importance of solidarity and support and the definition of psychological and social counseling for victims of torture.



Safa said that the session focused on "demanding the government to submit its report to the Committee against Torture, which was supposed to do that five years ago." It was also claimed "the signing of the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture, which allows control of Lebanese prisons and the application of international standards to improve the conditions of detainees and prisoners."

He called on participants of the session to "be a vigilant eye to monitor all aspects of human rights violations in prisons, families and society in general", and stressed that "the true criterion for the progress of any country is to apply standards of human rights."

The Center called to "review all human rights violations that have taken place in Lebanon whether the missing or the mass graves." He stressed that "without a review of this file, the process of political and social stability in Lebanon will be affected and that the justice for the victims of violence and torture is the entrance to the political stability and the fight against all social ills, particularly sectarianism that is considered by the trainees a form of torture." The ceremony ended with the distribution of certificates to the trainees.

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