

Speech of the Regional Representative of the high commissioner's office for human rights M.S Roueida Et Hage at the launching ceremony "Lebanese Army Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement" Monroe Hotel, 29/1/2019

Excellency, Commander in Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces,  
General Joseph Aoun

Excellency, Acting Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Ms, Pernille Dahler Kardel

Excellency, European Union Ambassador Kristina Lassen

Esteemed presence, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I would like to thank you for celebrating with us the launch of the Code of Conduct for the Lebanese Armed Forces that relates to rights and obligations of the Army personnel on duty, in performing functions or interacting with the public, authorities and institutions.
2. Allow me to congratulate the Army Commander in Chief, General Aoun for this pioneering accomplishment of a worthy model for Lebanon, following the models of codes of conduct for Internal Security and General Security forces introduced in cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Office in the previous years.
3. This code of Conduct establishes institutional, ethical and professional ground rules observing national legislation and international human rights standards mainly in accordance with the United Nations Code of Conduct of Law Enforcement Officials adopted by General Assembly resolution 34/169 of December 1979, as well as other basic international human rights standards applicable to law enforcement officials.
4. These standards should be made available as widely as possible to the public and fully respected under all circumstances. Exceptional circumstances such as a state of

emergency or any other public emergency do not justify a derogation from these standards.

5. The role of Army personnel at all levels and grades in preventing, protecting and respecting human rights of every individual is fundamental and crucial in times of peace, when maintaining order, or in times of conflict or fighting terrorism. Security institutions should adopt an active and visible policy of integrating a human rights perspective into the development and implementation of daily operations of Army, training or other activities.
6. The United Nations Office for Human Rights remains committed to the fundamental character of human rights education and mainstreaming of norms into policies for the prevention of human rights violations and abuses. The Office is also committed to providing professionals with knowledge, skills and understanding, through developing their attitudes and behaviours to foster a universal culture for human rights.
7. Considering the unfortunate instability in the region, law enforcement officials play a bigger role in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights. Thus, an integrated holistic approach that would emphasise implementation of the code of conduct on daily basis, rather than just a theory, is a must.
8. This code of Conduct is necessary for a better understanding of standards mainly on the ethical side in promoting a good social and professional culture by demonstrating how people are expected to be treated; on the streets, in homes, in demonstrations or in times of unrest.
9. This document is guided by the principle of non-discrimination and equality for all. Based on this principle, Lebanese women are encouraged to join security forces at all levels to ensure protection of all individuals, particularly allowing security forces to be approachable to women in communities.

10. The United Nations Human Rights Office has emphasized combating torture and ill-treatment, corruption, or the use of excessive force when maintaining order as essential components of codes of conduct worldwide. We also emphasized that breaches to basic principles of human rights when maintaining order and keeping peace should be restrained, and prevention should be rigorously pursued to preclude any violation.
11. Ladies and gentleman, allow me to praise the efforts of all those who contributed to the conceptualization, drafting and production of the Code of Conduct, in particular the Human Rights Department at the Lebanese Armed Forces, and colleagues at the United Nations Office.
12. I also thank the European Union for its continuous support to the United Nations' work in support of the promotion and protection of human rights work in Lebanon, in particular in relation to institutional and other reforms.
13. I assure you that we have full faith in the Commander in Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General Aoun that this Code of Conduct will be given the attention it deserves and will be implemented in full.

Thank you and long live Lebanon.