

Speech of the director of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the launching ceremony of the “Lebanese Army Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement” Monroe Hotel, 29/1/2019

**Esteemed Ministers, Deputies and Ambassadors**

**Esteemed Armed Forces Commander**

**Esteemed US Special Coordinator in Lebanon**

**Esteemed representative of the judicial body, security agencies and associations**

**Esteemed Audience**

Human Rights went through essential developments throughout history and are no longer a pure internal affair. It is now rather a global affair that interests the entire International community. A large number of pacts was signed in addition to announcements that define law protection for fragile fractions. In this context, the guarantee of Human Rights is now a main obligation that states and armies should put on top of their priorities list. Based on the ultimate attention given by the army command to the importance of respecting humanitarian dignity under the banner of the Law, the office of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights was established in 2009. As a continuation for this step and in expression of the clear will to improve performance and keep up with the international development in this context, the office was developed to become a directorate in 2015.

**Esteemed audience**

With the guidance of the Armed Forces Commander, the directorate of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights is still working with high energy in different fields that tackle Human Rights in particular. It has contributed to the training of hundreds of LAF officers and NCOs, males and females, in dealing with weakened fractions, issues of arrest and hold up, displacement and healthcare in prisons and in fighting torture and human

trafficking as well as other related subjects. Undoubtedly, the directorate was able to accomplish all that with the cooperation and coordination with the high commissioner's office for Human Rights and for Refugee affairs as well as the International committee of Red Cross and other specialized organizations.

It has visited all military prisons and launched and amended several military directives. It has also participated in the preparation of national reports for committees related to the pacts of the International Law for Human Rights.

The directorate has also boosted its achievements by preparing a training reference for the International Law for Human Rights that was added to an army code of conduct in law enforcement to be generalized and taught on all military levels as a supplement for the enforced instructions in this context.

### **Esteemed Audience**

This code of conduct aims to define the principles and values that must control the behavior of troops during army – related missions in preserving security. It comes as a confirmation of Lebanon's international commitment to anything related to the protection and enforcement of Human Rights in all state institutions, mainly the military institution that is constantly diligent in enrooting the principles of Human Rights and sovereignty of Law.

This code of conduct took quite a while to be prepared so that it is perfect and in compliance with international standards with the aim of expressing a true desire in developing an open mentality concerning dealing with citizens and residents in a frame that respects Human Rights without any harmful discrimination. This code of conduct came particularly as a fruitful result of the cooperation and partnership with the commissioner's office for Human Rights - Middle East and North Africa office.

### **Esteemed audience**

We would like to shed light on a highly important issue that is related to the comprehensive and mandatory aspect of this code of conduct, put forth by the Armed Forces Commander General Joseph Aoun. It is similar to directives issued by the command to all soldiers and any violation of its

stipulations results in accountability. Your attendance and patronage of this ceremony, esteemed LAF Commander is a mere confirmation of this commitment to it so that it has a major moral value and a special importance among military directives and instructions.

In the end, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the high commissioner's office for Human Rights for its fruitful cooperation with our directorate in the frame of training and ability development, particularly its regional office for its contribution in the development of this code of conduct and the organization of this event along with the LAF with the financing of the European Union.

I welcome you all for your attendance today and your participation in this ceremony that contributes to conveying the civilized image of our military institution.

Long Live the LAF – Long Live Lebanon