

**STATEMENT:**

**ONE YEAR AFTER THE  
LEBANON-ISRAEL WAR**

PARIS, FRANCE

Today marks the anniversary of the Israel war on Lebanon which began in September 2024, in an Israeli military operation dubbed operation “Northern Arrows” which resulted in 3,961 killed 16,520 fatalities.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the war, ACHR documented violations with a focus on underreported and undocumented violations facing Syrian refugees in Lebanon.<sup>2</sup>



*ACHR Documentation*

## ISRAELI VIOLATIONS THROUGHOUT WIDESCALE ATTACKS ON LEBANON:

Israel’s unlawful and deadly widescale attacks across Lebanon led to extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure such as private homes, hospitals, schools and roads as well as vast agricultural land – amounting to collective punishment and severely impacted Lebanese civilians and as well others residing in the country (including approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees and 490,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon). Hundreds of thousands were internally displaced within Lebanon and sought refuge in Syria at a time when Syria was under the Assad regime and faced significant security risks from the regime and security entities associated with it.

Israel committed several violations throughout the war including the indiscriminate pager and walkie-talkie attacks which included the explosion of booby-trapped devices which killed 32 people, including two children, and maimed/injured over 3,000 people. ACHR also closely documented the number of Syrian refugees killed, injured and displaced as a result of these attacks.<sup>3</sup> Respected human rights organizations have deemed the attack illegal under international humanitarian law and have called for the attacks to be investigated as war crimes. Israel also of attacks against journalists, health care workers and health facilities, humanitarian personnel including UN staff, and attacks against civilians and civilian objects.<sup>4</sup> Further, the Israeli military systematically engaged in extensive destruction in villages in southern Lebanon and used white phosphorus in various occasions in populated areas which illegal under international humanitarian law. Many residents of these towns and villages in southern Lebanon including Syrian and Palestinian refugees residing in these areas are still unable to return to their homes and land.

Despite the ceasefire deal on 27 November 2024, Israel continues to launch airstrikes and drone attacks in Lebanon including most recently a drone attack on 21 September 2025, which killed five people including three children and wounded two others. Israel has actively prohibited residents from moving back to villages in the south and has killed those attempting to return to areas close to Lebanon’s southern border.

1-Data from December 03 published by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

2-ACHR used using qualitative accounts from witnesses, survivors, activists, and volunteers, as well as open-source information.

3-ACHR, Weekly Situational Update #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 See: <https://achrights.org/en/2024/10/14/13694/>

4-Global Coalition of NGOs Call for Immediate Ceasefire in Lebanon, ACHR statement See: <https://achrights.org/en/2024/11/19/13785/>

The victims of these crimes under international law are still awaiting justice, reparations and accountability for these violations and Israel has continued to engage in human rights violations with impunity in the region. International and UN investigations have been made more difficult given that the Lebanese government (GoL) has yet to allow the International Criminal Court (ICC) the jurisdiction to carry out investigations on its territory.

## **CHALLENGES AND VIOLATIONS FACED BY SYRIAN REFUGEES THROUGHOUT THE WAR:**

At the onset of the war, Syrian refugees also faced significant human rights violations as a direct result of Israel's attacks and as a result of widescale discrimination and racism that resulted in the widescale denial of access to emergency protection and humanitarian aid. Violations disproportionately impact refugees and other vulnerable groups and their widescale displacement causes heightened protection risks and exposure to human rights violations.

GoL at the national level and local municipalities implemented discriminatory measures that denied refugees their rights to safety, shelter, assistance and freedom of movement. This was most evident in access to shelter with many Syrians restricted from accessing national emergency shelters and facing other challenges and barriers to renting housing. For instance, Minister Bassam Mawlawi repeatedly stated that shelters are reserved for Lebanese citizens only. These conditions, alongside inadequate shelter, food insecurity, and financial struggles, left refugees in dire situations forcing many into homelessness, overcrowded shelter spaces with relatives or forced to rent at inflated rental prices. Even following the ceasefire, some local municipalities in the south issued calls for Syrians not to return and landlords were instructed not to rent to Syrians. In other areas of Lebanon, ACHR confirmed reports of evictions of Syrians – a longstanding human rights violation in Lebanon.<sup>5</sup>

At the onset and during the war, Syrian refugees in Lebanon faced an impossible decision: return to Syria and face potential arrest, conscription, and abuse; or remain in Lebanon and risk death or injury from Israeli bombardment and continuing to suffer from the ongoing war.<sup>6</sup> By December 2023, more than 400,000 Syrians opted to flee to Syria to seek refuge from Israeli attacks. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), Syrian authorities arrested 23 refugees who returned from Lebanon to Syria fleeing Israeli airstrikes since 23 September with three released and the rest conscripted into the Syrian army.<sup>7</sup> Those that return to Syria then faced an array of security risks and human rights abuses such as arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearances, with many going missing under unclear circumstances and forced conscription.

5-Uprooting the Displaced: The Forced Evictions of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, ACHR Report. See: <https://achrights.org/en/2024/12/11/13820/>

6-'The risk of return: As Israel bombs Lebanon, Syrian deportees face detention, conscription, or worse'. Collaboration between the Syrian Investigative Journalism Unit (SIRAJ), The New Humanitarian, and the Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR), with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). See: <https://achrights.org/en/2024/10/16/13717/>

7- Ibid.

## **ACHR CALLS FOR:**

### **The Government of Lebanon (GoL) to:**

- Launch and support independent international investigations into all apparent violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes committed by all parties during the war.
- Take steps to grant jurisdiction to international bodies (like the ICC), or support independent investigations, to ensure accountability for victims.
- Protect the rights of victims and provide them with access to reparations, including working with the United Nations.
- Comprehensively plan for reconstruction, rehabilitation of infrastructure and services including supporting refugees.
- Prohibit all forms of discrimination, including in access to shelter, assistance and basic rights.

### **The International community to:**

- Stop supplying weapons or military assistance to parties involved in human rights violations in line with obligations under international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which prohibit arms transfers where there is a clear risk they could be used to commit or facilitate such violations.
- Strongly condemn the use of prohibited and indiscriminate weapons in line with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.
- Ensure unhindered humanitarian access and support to all affected communities, including the needs of refugees.
- Financially support humanitarian, development and reconstruction programs in Lebanon and ensure that responses are inclusive and focus on refugees and refugee rights.
- Support independent international investigations into all apparent violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes committed by all parties during the war in Lebanon.