

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

SAGA bldg, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
Damascus Road, Saifi  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: 01-217670  
Fax: 01-217635  
E-mail: beirut@hrw.org

### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DIVISION

Sarah Leah Whitson, *Executive Director*  
Lama Fakih, *Deputy Director*  
Eric Goldstein, *Deputy Director*  
Ahmed Benchemsi, *Advocacy and Communications  
Director*

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Asli Bali, *Co-Chair*  
Kathleen Peratis, *Co-Chair*  
Bruce Rabb, *Vice-Chair*  
Gary G. Sick, *Vice-Chair*  
Fouad Abdelmoumni  
Gamal M. Abouali  
Yasser Akkaoui  
Hala Al-Dossari  
Salah Al Hejailan  
Abdul-Ghani Al-Iryani  
Ahmed Al-Mukhaini  
Ghanim Al-Najjar  
Lisa Anderson  
Shaul Bakhash  
David Bernstein  
Robert L. Bernstein  
Nathan Brown  
Paul Chevigny  
Hanaa Edwar  
Bahey El Din Hassan  
Hassan Elmasry  
Mansour Farhang  
Loubna Freih Georges  
Aeyal Gross  
Amr Hamzawy  
Asos Hardi  
Shawan Jabarin  
Marina Pinto Kaufman  
Youssef Khlaf  
Marc Lynch  
Ahmed Mansoor  
Stephen P. Marks  
Abdelaziz Nouaydi  
Nabeel Rajab  
Vicki Riskin  
Charles Shamas  
Sid Sheinberg  
Sussan Tahmasebi  
Christophe Tanghe  
Mustapha Tlili

### HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director*  
Michele Alexander, *Deputy Executive Director,  
Development and Global Initiatives*  
Nicholas Dawes, *Deputy Executive Director,  
Communications*  
Iain Levine, *Deputy Executive Director, Program*  
Chuck Lustig, *Deputy Executive Director, Operations*  
Walid Ayoub, *Information Technology Director*  
Emma Daly, *Communications Director*  
Barbara Guglielmo, *Finance and Administration  
Director*  
Babatunde Olujobi, *Deputy Program Director*  
Dinah PoKempner, *General Counsel*  
Tom Porteous, *Deputy Program Director*  
James Ross, *Legal and Policy Director*  
Joe Saunders, *Deputy Program Director*  
Frances Sinha, *Human Resources Director*

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Comander Joseph Aoun  
Lebanese Armed Forces  
Yarzeh, Lebanon

### CC:

- Director of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Brig.  
Gen. Marwan Eid
- Military Prosecutor Judge Peter Germanos

Beirut, June 27, 2018

Dear Commander Aoun,

I'm writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to ask you to publish the results of the investigation into the deaths of four Syrians in the Army's custody announced on July 4, 2017. We discussed this issue with you during our meeting on July 26, 2017, in which you indicated that the army may be willing to do so.

On July 4, 2017, the Lebanese military issued a statement saying four Syrians died in its custody following mass raids in Aarsal. Human Rights Watch investigated the deaths and found that photos of the bodies showed signs of torture or ill-treatment. The military prosecutor released a summary of the investigation on July 24 finding that the men died of natural causes, but the military has never released the full results of the investigation.

Under the latest draft of the UN Human Rights Committee's General Comment No. 36 on the right to life, state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should make public the findings, conclusions and recommendations of an investigation into deaths in custody. Lebanon has an obligation to publish the results of the investigation when a detainee dies in custody. Loss of life occurring in custody, especially when accompanied by reliable reports of an unnatural death, create a presumption of arbitrary deprivation of life by State authorities, which can only be rebutted

on the basis of a proper investigation which establishes the State's compliance with its obligations under international law.

In order for us to reflect your responses in our upcoming report, we request that you respond to us by July 3, 2018. I am available by email at \*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*.\*\*\*\*, by fax at 01 \*\*\* \*\*\*, or by phone at \*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*.

Sincerely,

Lama Fakhri

Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa Division

Director, Beirut Office

Human Rights Watch