

Institute for Human Rights of the Beirut Bar Association

The Statute

First – The Name

The Institute for Human Rights (hereinafter called “The Institute”) is a specialized body within the Beirut Bar Association.

Second – The Headquarters

The Institute has his headquarters at the Beirut Bar Association.

The Institute carries out its activities (in particular the conferences and the seminars) in the Bar conference room, except in exceptional cases. A specialized library that is part of the Bar library is put at the Institute’s disposal.

Third – The Management

(Amended by virtue of the decision rendered on May 16th, 2003).

The Institute is headed ipso jure by the incumbent Bar President and managed by a Director, a lawyer called to the Beirut Bar Association for more than ten years at least, known for his competence and experience in this field, chosen and appointed to this position by the Bar Council for a two-year mandate.

The Director shall be assisted by an assistant and a secretary designated by the Council among the lawyers called to the Bar for more than ten years at least for the same mandate.

The Bar President, head of the Institute, shall represent it in all works related thereto, and in case of absence, the Director shall fulfill the said task.

The functions of the Director, his assistant, the secretary and any lawyer helping them shall be free of charge.

The Director of the Institute shall also be assisted by a scientific Committee of three members, chosen by the Bar Council whether from the Bar Council or among the lawyers. The Committee for the Defense of Civil Liberties and Human Rights of the Bar shall be represented by its president or anyone he delegates in order to coordinate work between the Institute and the said Committee. Its function is to make research and discuss the Institute's program proposed by the Director for a two-year period. The secretary of the Bar Council shall coordinate work between the Institute and the Bar Council and the reports of the Institute shall be submitted to the Council through the Director.

Fourth – The Objectives

The Institute shall program training sessions on human rights for lawyers and in favor of the administration, whether judicial or other, related to lawyers, in collaboration with the similar institutions and the specialized international organizations.

The training shall particularly be as follows:

- A practical training on the application of international treaties related to human rights in the internal legal framework according to the Code of Civil Procedure in order to reach, through the actions brought in the courts before which the texts of such treaties are invoked, a set of specific jurisprudence that will anchor subsequently the principles of these treaties in the domestic law.
- Familiarization training with the practices of foreign courts, especially in Europe, for comparative purposes in the field of human rights.
- A training to understand the mechanism established by international treaties on human rights in order to promote its use.

Besides, the Institute shall, within its tasks, promote the universal values stipulated by the Lebanese Constitution and the United Nations treaties on human rights, in order to publish the texts of the said treaties, supervise their application in Lebanon, especially by making and publishing reports as well as organizing conferences on some crucial issues in this regard, and prepare draft laws that harmonize domestic legislation with the Constitution and the said treaties in particular.

Fifth – The Functioning

(Amended by virtue of the decision rendered on May 16th, 2013).

- The Director shall be responsible for the implementation and the realization, over a two-year period, of a program that he prepares with the Scientific Committee and submits every year to the Bar Council for approval. He should, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Bar Council a quarterly report on his activity and an annual report on the work and activities of the Institute.
- A special account shall be allocated, as part of the Bar budget, on behalf of the Institute for Human Rights, fed by donations. No charge shall be disbursed without prior decision of the Bar Council.
- The charge shall be disbursed by virtue of written orders to pay and checks signed by the Bar President, the Bar Treasurer and the Director of the Institute.
- The Director of the Institute can have a five thousand US dollars credit to spend on miscellaneous expenses and, if necessary, in the same manner described above provided that the charge is exposed to the Council in the first meeting following the disbursement.
- It shall be possible to conclude contracts with persons who want to work for the Institute by virtue of a decision rendered by the Bar Council, on the proposal of the Institute Director and within the budget allocated to the Institute.

Sixth – The Means

The Institute shall achieve its objectives by the following means determined as an indication and not by way of limitation:

- 1- Cooperate with the similar institutions of the bars having a similar judicial tradition, and especially by organizing specialized seminars for the lawyers and through courtesy visits.
- 2- Produce manuals on human rights.
- 3- Translate and publish texts of international instruments on human rights.
- 4- Organize training sessions with international organizations for the Institute's assistants and the Bar members.
- 5- Establish a specialized library constituted as a part of the Bar library; it shall include collections of the international law instruments related to human rights, as well as their Arabic version to bring them within the reach of practitioners but also of the magistrates and the administration officers, and specialized magazines.
- 6- Publish a specialized periodical with the aim of translating and publishing the decisions of foreign tribunals, and commenting the decisions of Lebanese tribunals or the texts of laws or treaties related to human rights. This periodical shall be published in the context of the Bar magazine ("Al Adl") or regardless of the latter if the purpose of the publication so requires.
- 7- Publish files and reports on some important issues. For instance: the independence of the judiciary, the death penalty, the prisons, juvenile justice, civil liberties, etc. These documents should constitute a preliminary step to the organization of conferences in which shall be studied issues aimed at making a change in the status quo (i.e. a draft legislative or judicial reform, training tools for specialized personnel or the organization, the presentation and the publication of manuals, etc.).
- 8- Supervise the application of human rights treaties in Lebanon. In this framework, a follow up is conducted concerning Lebanon's commitments for the effective and comprehensive implementation of the said treaties. Thus, a report shall be drawn concerning each of these treaties, and if necessary, in accordance with the forms stipulated by the Centre for Human Rights at the United Nations, in order to serve as reference for the timely submission of the official reports intended for each of these treaties.

Seventh – These Bye-laws shall be amended by virtue of a decision taken by the Bar Council.

The Council of the Beirut Bar Association has approved the present bye-laws in its session held on October 10th, 1997.