



Lebanese Political Detainees in Syria

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Report submitted by the Lebanese Political Detainees in Syria NGO to the Committee against Torture on the occasion of the consideration of the State report submitted by Syria under article 19 of the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

12 April 2010

Lebanese Political Detainees in Syria (LPDS) is a Non-Governmental Organization created in Lebanon on January 5th 2009 by former Lebanese political detainees in Syria. LPDS is duly registered at the Lebanese Ministry of Interior. To date LPDS groups more than 180 members, all previously detained illegally in Syria. The total number of years of unlawful detention and torture that the members of the LPDS represent exceed 1,600 years (One Thousand Six Hundred Years).

We have read with great interests the Arabic version of the Initial Report due in 2005 and presented in July 2009 of the Syrian Arab Republic (The Report). Our remarks to the report are the following:

- 1- The Report fails to expose in detail the governing law in Syria being the State of Emergency Law that was imposed by the Syrian government on 22 December 1962 and is imposed until today. This law supersedes all the laws listed with repetition in The Report
- 2- The Report lists very few cases of reprimanding of persons committing crimes of violence or torture but fails to state exactly what was their punishment limiting its information to what it calls “administrative punishment”.

LPDS understands that your Committee is surely more interested in cases of torture that occurred after July 1st 2004 being the date of ratification by Syria of CAT. Syria has occupied Lebanon from 1978 to 2005 and is still imposing a good deal of influence on Lebanon through many proxies who still pledge allegiance to Syria until today. This makes exposing any case of violation by Syria time consuming. All the members of LPDS have been released from Syria before 2004 but have left behind many persons who are still detained until today. We have credible reasons to believe that the systematic mistreatment and torture in Syrian detention center and jails is still applied until today. Torture in Syria is not performed on a few detainees or occasionally. Torture is a ritual applied on all detainees.

We will start by giving one example being the case of Ahmad Sati who was detained in Syria in 2008 and whose body was returned to Lebanon in 2009 having succumbed to the torture and harsh treatment he was subjected to.

Other recent cases involve Milad Chehadeh Barakat who was release in 2008 and Georges Chalaweet who was released in 2005. Both have been subjected to the same systematic torture that every detainee is subjected to.

Other cases involve other people who where detained in 2009 and even in 2010. These cases are still being investigated by LPDS and respecting the request of the families of these detainees we are upholding their names as this will increase their torture and suffering.

Another very famous case is the extraordinary rendition into Syria of the Canadian citizen Maher Arrar who was tortured at will by the Syrians.

The case of Ali Boudehn actual president of LPDS can represent each and every other case for every member of LPDS. Ali Boudehn was tried three years after his abduction in Damascus. He appeared in front of a military tribunal at the Political Jail of Tadmur. The room was very dirty and the judge panel was composed of 5 people in civilian clothes in the presence of the head of Tadmur Political jail prison Ghazi al Jahny in military clothes and his assistant Mohamad Nehmeh. Both of these individuals were the ones performing ruthless torture in the prison. Ali Boudehn was simply read his life sentence without the right of defense. He was not even allowed to raise his head! From the first day in detention each detainee is subjected to systematic torture. Sleep depravation, starvation, and humiliation where the easiest ordeals. Each detainee had all his body hair shaved including his eyelashes. This means that they had to sleep with their eyes open because their eyelashes became needles perforating their eyes.

The daily tortures where (photos are shown at the end of this document):

- 1- Isolation
- 2- Flagellation
- 3- Wind Carpet
- 4- Hand Hanging for 24 hours
- 5- Tire/wheel
- 6- Hanging upside down
- 7- German Chair
- 8- Electric shocks

Torture and unlawful detention in Syria should be investigated by the UN and considered as a crime against humanity. Lebanese, Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, Kurds, and even Canadian citizens are systematically tortured in Syria.

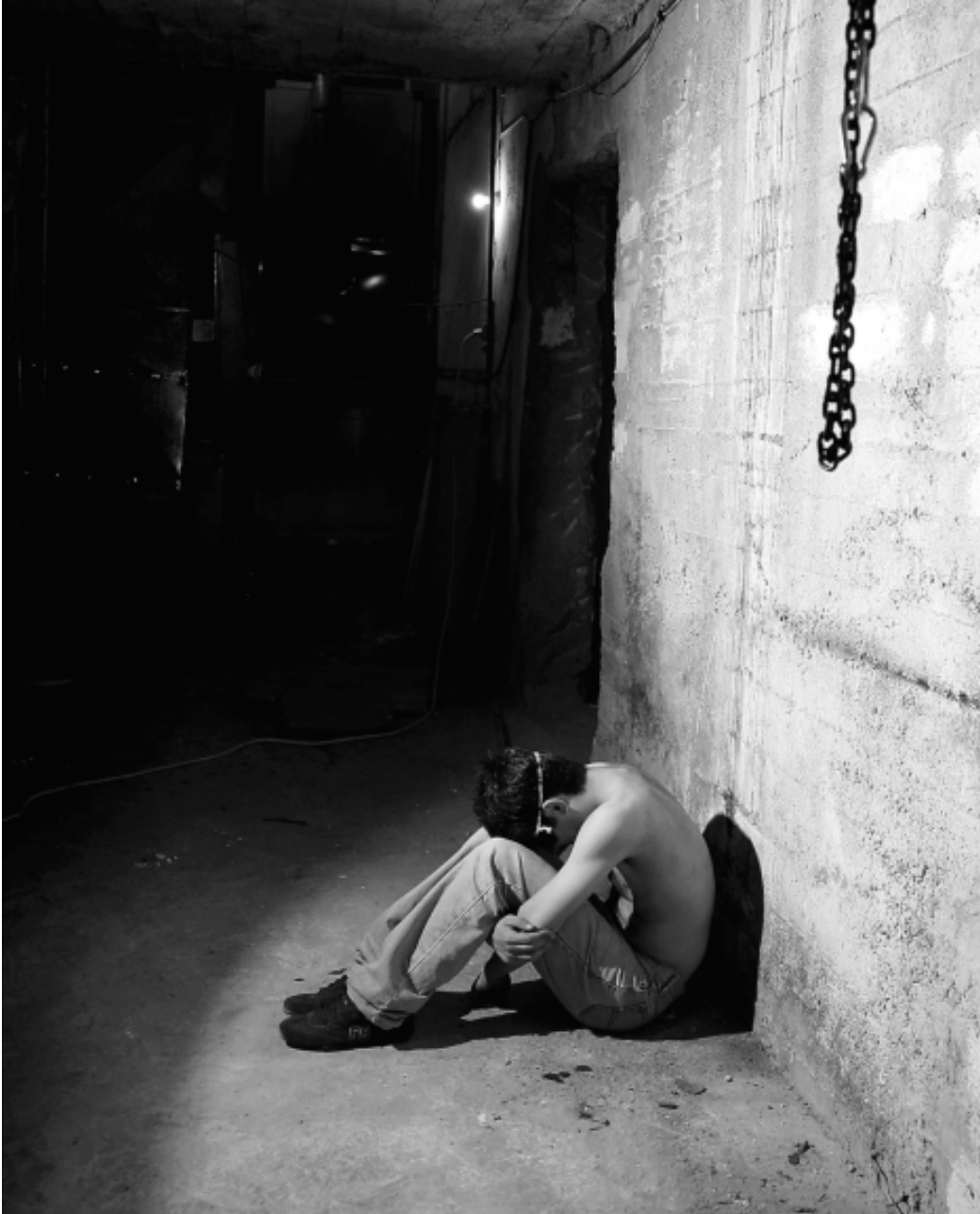
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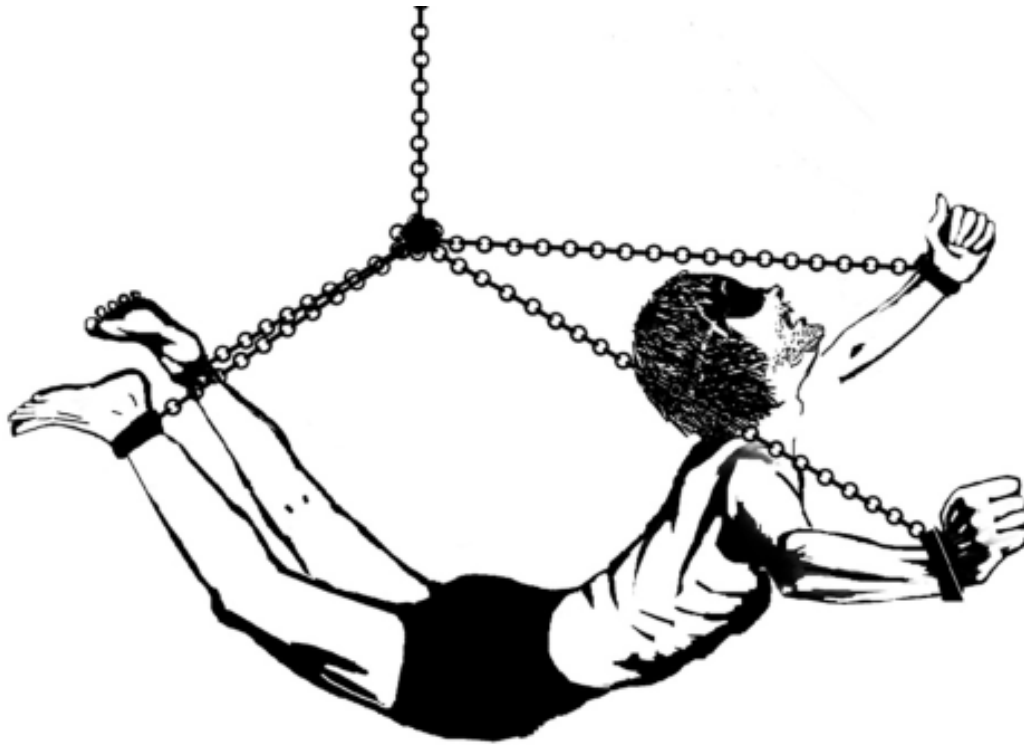
Daily Torture Methods



ISOLATION



FLAGELLATION



WIND CARPET



TIRE / WHEEL



24 HOURS HANGING



HANGING UPSIDE DOWN



GERMAN CHAIR



ELECTRIC SHOCK