

Lebanese Republic
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces

Internal Security Forces Code of Conduct



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Foreword by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities

Security and military institutions in all democracies require, in implementing applicable laws and regulations, a guide by which members of all ranks abide and which equally applies to superiors and subordinates; a guide that defines the permissible, the prohibited and the rules of conduct and behavior, as law-enforcement authorities are vested with the power to arrest, investigate and detain in compliance with the law, besides their everyday interaction with citizens and foreign residents.

This goes to show the importance of codes of conduct which the Directorate-General of the Internal Security Forces, of all security and military services in Lebanon, led the way in developing and adopting.

Once again, the Directorate-General is keeping pace with progress and advancement by updating the Code of Conduct (CoC) in line with international standards and Lebanon's commitment as a spearhead in the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the observance of its provisions in the preamble to the constitution – which is the supreme law.

By issuing the CoC and its updated second edition, the Directorate-General of the ISF, an institution that has selflessly offered up its best

and brightest as martyrs on the nation's altar, proves its determination to develop its members' performance and competence through their full commitment to enforcing the law rigorously and professionally, fully respecting human rights – humanity being uniquely set apart in the eyes of God.

I call on ISF members to abide by and apply the provisions of the CoC. Despite the importance of issuing laws and regulations throughout the history of nations, the key is in their sound implementation that joins the maintenance of order and security and fighting crime on the one hand, and abiding by the values of this esteemed institution – notably the just and equal enforcement of laws and observance of human rights – on the other. This leads to social justice as an essential step towards maintaining the rule of law and a state of institutions able to ensure its people's safety and wellbeing.

I wish you further success and progress.

Long live the ISF; long live Lebanon.

Nouhad Al Machnouk

Minister of Interior and Municipalities

Foreword by the Director General of the Internal Security Forces

Driven by the need to keep up with legislative developments in Lebanon and the determination to promote human rights across the organization's practices and policies, the ISF Directorate-General issues the second edition of the Code of Conduct following the adoption of several laws directly concerned with human rights. The DG regards this edition of the CoC as another pillar that reinforces the transformation of this prestigious institution from traditional policing, mainly based on enforcement and deterrence, to a more democratic style inspired by the principles of community policing, where the citizen becomes a partner in combating crimes, maintaining order and security and establishing justice.

On this occasion, I address all ISF members – senior officers, noncommissioned officers and cadets – to ascertain to them once again that the CoC has grown to become an integral part of the body of values, principles and regulations governing the organization's operations and everyone who works under its umbrella. Based in spirit and content on the core provisions of the Constitution, international instruments and domestic laws and legislations, the CoC accrues by default a mandatory character that makes it binding on all ISF members, staff and contractors, thus leaving no margin for any discretionary power. I hereby stress the role of superiors

in urging their subordinates to implement the CoC's provisions by leading them by example, furthering their knowledge and providing them with support and encouragement.

Launched from the Grand Serail three years ago, the CoC has garnered interest and attention to this progressive and pioneering stride that Lebanon has made despite all the challenges and circumstances prevalent in this small part of the world. In fact, this leaves us with a greater responsibility to shoulder as high hopes have been staked on us. Falling back is unacceptable and failure is something we do not believe in. Three years ago, we committed ourselves to investing in the human capital, and we are resolved to do so. Only training, professionalism and observance of noble principles will transform us into a world-class organization that serves its citizens efficiently, respectfully and humanely. I entrust you with this CoC; let it be your guiding reference and compass in building and fortifying the organization we all aspire for.

May you be blessed and protected!

Major General Ibrahim Basbous
Director General of Internal Security Forces

Our Vision

To meet the expectations of citizens and have their complete trust.

Our Mission

- Maintain security and order
- Combat crime through :
 - Effective investigations
 - Crime prevention
 - Arrest of perpetrators
- Enforce the law fairly
- Protect people and property
- Protect rights and freedoms
- Facilitate daily lives
- Make best use of resources

Our Values

- Respect for Human Rights
- Honesty and Integrity
- Equality and Fairness
- Leadership by example
- Professionalism and Courtesy



The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to define the obligations of members of the Internal Security Forces (police members) and the legal and ethical standards they will abide by in performing their duties. This Code governs their relationship with individuals, groups and authorities and seeks to ensure respect of human rights and protection of public freedoms according to the Lebanese Constitution and international standards.

Therefore, police members will adhere to the following obligations:

1- Professional Duty

- Police members will maintain order and security, protect public freedoms, secure enforcement of laws and regulations, ensure public well-being and safeguard public and private property.
- Police members will preserve human dignity and uphold public freedoms and human rights.
- Police members will not abuse power and will obey laws so that they become role models for others.
- Police members will show diligence and motivation in the exercise of their duties, in compliance with the law.
- Police members will ensure the confidentiality of the information they have access to through their work and will not disclose such information except to competent authorities.
- Police members will respond to emergency calls quickly and effectively.

- Police members will provide relief for persons affected by emergencies and disasters of any kind.
- Police members will immediately report any act that breaches laws and regulations to competent authorities.
- Police members will not do any act or give any order that is intended to inflict torture on people.

2- Duty of Superiors

- Superiors will be role models and good examples for their subordinates in abiding by the provisions of this Code and reflecting its spirit.
- Superiors will develop the professional knowledge of their subordinates and will guide them to optimize their performance.
- Superiors will monitor the performance of their subordinates, their abidance by applicable laws and regulations and their observance of the Code of Conduct, and will take adequate and fair measures against offenders.
- Superiors will deal with their subordinates with respect and recognition, without favoritism.
- Superiors will boost the morale of their subordinates and look after the needs that guarantee the optimal discharge of their professional duties.
- Superiors will not issue orders in violation of laws and regulations.

3- Honesty and Integrity

- Police members will seek public interest, act with honesty and integrity and rise above all personal interests.
- Police members will refrain from any corrupt act (bribery, blackmailing, embezzlement, etc); they will challenge and combat such acts.
- Police members will not abuse their powers or neglect their law enforcement duties for personal interests or gains.
- Police members will not accept any gratuity, gift or favor from any source – be it to them or to their subordinates.

4- Impartiality

- Police members will be just and fair to everybody when enforcing the law.
- Police members will not practice any form of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, confession, region, national origin, gender, age, social status or any other basis.

5- Conduct

- Police members will establish the best relations with the public to gain their trust and collaboration.
- Police members will not practice, incite, or disregard any act of torture or any cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment during investigations and during the execution of their missions.

- Police members will be ethical and polite; they will also be strict, tactful and well-mannered and show no arrogance when performing their duties.
- Police members will not behave, whether in their professional or private life, in any way that brings discredit to them and to the institution they belong to (frequenting gambling and betting places, associating with persons of ill repute, evading debt settlement, appearing drunk, etc).
- Police members will show sensitivity towards persons with special needs and victims.

6- Discipline

- Police members will obey their superiors in all matters related to their duties; they will not complain during the exercise of their duties.
- Police members will keep a decent military appearance.
- Police members:
 - will not be involved in politics, and will refrain from joining parties, associations or trade unions or attending party, political, syndical and electoral meetings.
 - will not publish articles, give lectures or make any media statements before getting prior authorization from the competent authority.
 - will not engage in any profession or paid work in addition to employment within the ISF.
 - will not go on or incite strikes.

- will not organize or sign collective petitions related to any subject.
- will not attend funerals in an official capacity except in those cases specified in ISF regulations.
- Will not use social media in a manner that is damaging to their reputation or the reputation of the organization they belong to.

7- Use of Force and Firearms

The right to life is sacred, therefore:

- Police members will not resort to the use of force unless it is necessary, proportionate and after exhausting all possible, non-violent means, within the minimum extent needed to accomplish the mission.
- Police members will resort to the use of firearms only when it is absolutely necessary according to the law, after having taken all possible precautions and exhausted all other means.

8- Rights of Suspects and Detainees

- Police members will not deprive any person of their freedom except when it is stipulated by law.
- Police members will inform suspects or defendants of their rights upon arrest as set out in Article 47 of the Criminal Procedures Code, and mention this procedure in the investigation report. They will respect the duration of detention set forth by the law.

- Police members will adopt legal methods and scientific techniques during their investigative work and will not resort to any inhumane practice in order to obtain confessions or extract information.
- Police members will provide persons in ISF custody with access to medical care and basic needs, and take prompt measures to that end.
- Police members will allow detainees to meet with their parents, legal representatives or delegates of the Consulates of their countries if they are foreigners as set out by law.
- When bringing in a juvenile for investigation, police members will, if feasible, immediately notify the juvenile’s parents, persons acting in “loco parentis” or any other person responsible for them; they will not start the investigation unless a social worker is present, and will separate the juvenile from adult detainees in the case of detention. Police members will treat juveniles humanely and handcuff them only in exceptional circumstances.

9- Compliance with the Code of Conduct

- Police members will respect and obey the Code of Conduct and report any breach of its provisions; appropriate disciplinary and legal actions will be taken against members who breach the Code.
- Police members who abide by the Code of Conduct will deserve the full respect and support of society and law enforcement officials.

ISF Code of Conduct Explanatory Notes

The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. These rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, as stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December, 1966 and in force since March 23, 1976.

Lebanon is one of the United Nations founding members, has taken part in the elaboration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is bound by the majority of the International treaties promulgated in this regard.

The Institution of the Internal Security Forces has decided to forge ahead with the development of its professional performance at all levels, especially in terms of ensuring the respect of human rights

by its members as these rights are sublime human values. Based on the importance of establishing a national culture to protect and maintain human rights, especially the rights of persons deprived of their freedom and held in prisons and detention centers and in order to guarantee the respect of these rights, a Human Rights Department was established at the ISF Inspectorate General by virtue of Decree 755, dated 3/1/2008, with a mandate to disseminate knowledge of human rights, protect human rights against violations and enhance human rights awareness amongst ISF members in the exercise of their powers.

This Code of Conduct aims to ensure the compliance of ISF members with the standards of honor, integrity, justice, competence, efficiency and impartiality in the discharge of their duties; enhancing confidence in the Internal Security Forces; and promoting a respectable image of the institution in dealing with the public and by combating crime, maintaining order and security, protecting freedoms and upholding human rights.

1- Professional Duty

1-1 Article 1 of Law № 17 of 6/9/1990 (Organization of the Internal Security Forces) established the missions of the Internal Security Forces as follows:

- a- Maintain order and security
- b- Secure public well-being
- c- Protect people and properties
- d- Protect freedoms within the bounds of the law
- e- Enforce laws and regulations vested in them
- f- Assume the missions of the Judicial Police

1-2 In the discharge of their duties, police members shall abide by laws, respect human dignity and protect personal freedom; they shall not undermine the latter through any act that would keep any person from exercising their civil rights and obligations – be it through threats, violence or any other means of physical and moral coercion, or through deprivation of freedom in cases other than those set forth by the law. Police members shall also safeguard human rights (Article 8 of the Lebanese Constitution, Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 329 and 367 of the Penal Code, and Article 2 of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, dated 17/12/1979).

1-3 Police members shall respect and obey the law. They shall adhere to the standards of the Code of Conduct, refrain from abusing the power entrusted to them, and enforce the law in line with the oath they take when they are instated (Article 45

of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990) which reads: “I swear by God, by my country and my honor ... I will not use the power entrusted to me but to maintain order and enforce the law”.

- 1-4** Police members shall perform the duties entrusted to them with diligence, motivation and promptness in order to give a positive image of the Institution.
- 1-5** Police members shall not disclose information or data they collect or possess, out of obligation to respect people’s private and family life. They are bound by professional secrecy in the information they have access to as per the provisions of Article 226 of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990 (Organization of the Internal Security Forces), Internal Note 338 of 8/1/1992, and Article 4 of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. Police members are only entitled to disclose such information to competent authorities, and any violation would subject the offender, in addition to the relevant disciplinary measures taken against them, to legal action under the provisions of Article 579 of the Lebanese Penal Code.

Police members are forbidden from disseminating or leaking information on investigations carried out by the judicial police, public prosecution departments and investigation authorities as such information is confidential in nature, and in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and to ensure the proper administration of justice. Any violation would subject the offender to legal action under the provisions of Article 420 of the Lebanese Penal Code and Article 42 of the Code of Criminal Procedures.

- 1-6** Police members shall respond to queries and answer phone calls with courtesy and politeness. They shall provide requested information about locations, neighborhoods and public institutions, and rush eagerly to help children, women and elderly and disabled persons to cross overcrowded and dangerous places (“Second” Clause of Internal Note 8 of 13/11/1959). Police members shall respond to the emergency and rescue calls of every person in danger, and shall protect public and private properties, especially during disasters and calamities (Article 223 of Law 17 of 6/9/1990).
- 1-7** Police members shall ensure the provision of medical and health care for the victims of accidents and all types of disasters (Article 13 of the Code of Conduct of Arab Security Men).
- 1-8** Police members shall report to the concerned authorities all crimes (felonies, misdemeanors, contraventions) they witness themselves or become aware of (Article 223 of Law 17 of 6/9/1990).

2- Duty of Superiors

- 2-1** The fact that superiors abide by the Code of Conduct and by laws and regulations gives subordinates a good example to follow. In the performance of their duties, superiors shall be inspired by public interest only and shall endeavor to implement the laws and regulations in force without any abuse, violation or neglect. When superiors are just and fair in exercising the powers granted to them by law, subordinates will be positively influenced; they will feel

secure and give better performance.

2-2 Superiors shall endeavor to enhance the general and professional knowledge of their subordinates, and ensure their development through training courses or educational programs. They shall also make it easy for them to pursue their studies and encourage them to improve their performance and observe moral values and good conduct. Superiors shall reward deserving subordinates thereby ensuring healthy competition amongst them, in the best interests of the service.

2-3 Superiors shall ensure a close oversight over the actions of their subordinates, making sure they abide by the provisions of this Code of Conduct. They shall conduct inspections and surprise visits to all sections falling within their jurisdiction with all due rigor, to verify whether these sections are executing the missions entrusted to them or not, and to take adequate and fair measures against those who are neglectful or disobedient.

Superiors shall keep track of the psychological and moral state of their subordinates and their readiness to perform their job. They shall also be aware of the relationships their subordinates have with the different authorities (judicial – military – administrative – etc.) and with others; and work on improving these relationships. Superiors shall also inquire into the reasons behind any drop in productivity and address such reasons. They shall give advice and provide any required assistance to those who need it, both on the professional and personal levels.

- 2-4** Superiors shall treat their subordinates with decency and respect. They shall abstain from insulting, ridiculing or humiliating them (Article 159 of the Military Code) and shall treat them equally and be considerate of the humanitarian conditions they might face in such a way that does not compromise the service.
- 2-5** Superiors shall boost the morale of their subordinates by supervising them, endeavoring to educate and motivate them, attending to their needs and demands, and helping meet those, to the extent possible, in a manner that positively reflects on their performance in the service.
- 2-6** Regardless of their rank and position, superiors shall not issue unlawful orders in violation of the law. The lawfulness and legality of orders are fundamental conditions for a subordinate’s execution of the order, as understood by the applicable legal texts (Article 226 of the Penal Code, Article 200 of Law 17/90). Orders that result in the violation of human rights, at any stage of arrest, interrogation or detention, are unlawful orders which, if executed, shall make both issuer and executer liable to punishment. Indeed, “an order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture” (Article 2, Clause 3 of the Convention Against Torture). Moreover, “obedience to superior orders may not be invoked to justify gross human rights violations such as unlawful killings and torture” (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Human Rights Standards and Practice for the Police).

3- Honesty and Integrity

- 3-1** In the performance of their duties, police members shall be inspired by public interest only and endeavor to implement the laws and regulations in force without any abuse, violation or neglect, (Paragraph 5, Clause 1, Article 1 of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990: Organisation of the Internal Security Forces; and Clause 1, Article 14 of legislative Decree № 112, dated 12/6/1959: Regulations of Employees). They shall act with honesty and integrity and be above all personal interests to enhance public confidence in them.
- 3-2** Police members shall refrain from committing, or attempting to commit, any act of corruption; they shall challenge such acts and combat them strongly. The term ‘act of corruption’ generally covers nepotism, favoritism and committing any offense that undermines the obligations of the duty, such as bribery, influence peddling, embezzlement, job exploitation, violation of freedoms, abuse of power, failure to fulfill professional obligations, stipulated in Articles 351 to 377 of the Penal Code. Police members are forbidden from accepting any gratuity, gift or favor from any source – be it to them or to their subordinates (Internal Note 25 of 15/2/1960).

Police members are also governed by the provisions of Law № 154 of 27/12/1999 (illicit enrichment).

4- Impartiality

- 4-1** Police members shall deal with everyone with justice, fairness and impartiality.

- 4-2** Human rights are protected by national and international laws, especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination whether based on race, ethnicity, confession, region, national origin, gender, age, social status or any other basis (Articles 2 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

5- Conduct

- 5-1** Police members shall establish the best relations with others to gain their trust and cooperation. They shall prove in all their actions that they serve the public within the bounds of the law, ensure their safety and security and protect their interests; they shall give an honorable image of the institution in combating crimes, maintaining order and security and preserving public freedoms. Police members shall not be seen as a mere tool of repression, but rather as a source of help and assistance when they are resorted to (Internal Note № 8 of 13/11/1959).

Police members shall give the needed care when a major incident is reported to them by any person. As a matter of fact, a lack of concern is a sign of carelessness and indifference, and such an attitude leaves a negative impact on people and dampens motivation.

- 5-2** In the exercise of their coercive powers, police members shall avoid all violence that is not deemed necessary. They shall also refrain from practicing, inciting or disregarding any act of torture or any cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment,

especially when it is aimed to intimidate a person, force them to confess to a crime or disclose information about it (Convention Against Torture, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10/12/1984 which was ratified by the parliament in Law 185 of 24/5/2000, Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 225 of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990, Article 401 of the Penal Code, and Articles 41 and 47 of the Code of Criminal Procedures); and make use of scientific techniques by resorting to the Scientific Police (DNA profiling-prints matching-Barcoding).

- 5-3** Whether on or off duty, police members shall be extremely polite in their relationship with others, and avoid any show of arrogance or violence. Strictness coupled with politeness is the best way to accomplish the mission. When enforcing the law, police members shall be disciplined, strict and kind. They shall make sure not to be regarded as the enemy and carry themselves before all as servants and protectors of the law. They shall disregard any provocations which attempt to draw them into quarrels and personal disputes. The military spirit shall inspire all their actions; their good appearance and good relationship with everyone shall be a fine proof of their class and refinement.
- 5-4** Police members shall behave in a way that does not bring shame and discredit to them or to the institution they belong to, and that does not undermine public trust in the Internal Security Forces (defaults or delay in debt settlement, bounced checks, appearing drunk, frequenting shady, disreputable places, gambling and betting and associating with women

of ill repute). Police members are also prohibited from frequenting gambling and betting places (Service Memo № 161/204/D4, dated 19/11/1998).

- 5-5** Police members shall be considerate of the conditions of persons with special needs and victims, whether seniors, children, refugees, domestic workers, etc. and provide them with the necessary assistance. They shall also give cases of domestic violence and human trafficking proper attention and offer victims, specifically women and minors, all possible forms of support. (Law 293/2014 on the Protection of Women and Family Members Against Domestic Violence; Law 164, of 24/8/2011, Anti-Trafficking Law; Service Memo 164/204 D4, of 20/5/2013; Service Memo 250/204 D4, of 13/8/2013; Service Memo 1743/204 D2, of 16/6/2011).

6- Discipline

- 6-1** The commitment of police members to professional, occupational, social and ethical discipline builds the strength and reputation of the Institution and reinforces belief in the capacity of the ISF to fulfill its missions. Therefore, police members shall obey their superiors in all matters relating to the service, they shall be serious and never complain in the performance of their duties, and act in line with the oath they take when they are instated, “I swear by God, by my country and my honor that I will obey my superiors in all matters relating to the service I am called for...” (Article 45 of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990; Articles 107 to 120 and Articles 148 to 166 of the Military Code).

Salutation is one of the most important manifestations of mutual respect amongst members of the security forces. It shall be performed out of conviction because in addition to the fact that it is an obligation prescribed by law, it is also an expression of mutual trust, respect of hierarchy and discipline (Clause “First” of Internal Note № 357 of 15/5/1995).

- 6-2** Police members shall have a proper, clean and neat military appearance on and off duty, and rigorously abide by the rules of uniform wear and appearance (Appendix 9 of Internal Note 283, dated 26/3/1974, Contraventions of Uniform Wear and Appearance).
- 6-3** Police members shall not wear any symbol, insignia or logo that indicates certain political or ideological preferences for this would negatively impact their performance and undermine their impartiality and objectivity in dealing with the public (Service Memo No 115/204/D4, dated 26/5/2003).
- 6-4** Police members are prohibited from (Article 160 of Law 17 of 6/9/1990):
 - Engaging in politics and joining parties, associations or trade unions or attending party, political, syndical and electoral meetings.
 - Publishing articles, giving lectures or speeches or making any media statements before getting prior authorization from the competent authority (Paragraph 9 of Article 17 of Decree 1157/1991, Service Memo No 167/204/D4 dated 21/11/1994 and all circulars and orders issued by the competent authority in each case).

- Engaging in any profession or paid work in addition to employment within the ISF.
- Going on or inciting strikes.
- Organizing or signing collective petitions related to any subject.
- Attending funerals in an official capacity except in those cases specified in ISF regulations.

6-4 Police members are prohibited from using social media in a manner that is damaging to their reputation or the reputation of the organization they belong to (Internal Note 381, of 14/5/2014 Regulations on Police Member Use of Online Social Media).

7- Use of Force and Firearms

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, accordingly:

- 7-1** Police members shall avoid any unnecessary violence in the exercise of their coercive powers, and the use of force should be proportionate and commensurate with the circumstances, if other means failed to accomplish the mission (Article 225 of Law 17, dated 6/9/1990).
- 7-2** Police members shall only use firearms when it is absolutely necessary after taking all possible precautionary measures and after exhausting all other means, in accordance with the provisions of Article 221 of Law 17 of 6/9/1990:

- a- When commissioned by the administrative authority (the Muhafiz and the Qaem-maqam) in the process of establishing order.
- b- In the case of legitimate self-defense, as provided for by the Lebanese Penal Code.

Legitimate defense is the use of necessary force to stand up to a wrongful and unprovoked assault that threatens a right protected by law.

The exercise of right is any act entailed by a current exigency to stand up to a wrongful and unprovoked assault directed against oneself or one's property, or against the other and their property, where the natural person is equal to the moral person in protection (Article 184 of the Penal Code).

Legitimate defense presupposes the presence of an assault and an act to confront this assault. The act of assault is fulfilled if:

- It is directed against oneself or one's money.
- The danger is taking place, i.e. in the process of taking place or is at least at its onset.

The act of self-defense is fulfilled if the following conditions are met:

- It is necessary and could prevent or confront the assault.
- It is proportionate to the assault, i.e. there should be no excessiveness in the exercise of the right to legitimate defense. "Proportionate" means the act of defense is commensurate with the scale of danger, and "excessiveness" means the use of force exceeds what could have been sufficient to avert danger.

- c- To prevent them being stripped of their weapons or equipment in their possession.
- d- To defend their centers and the places they are assigned to protect.
- e- To keep or ensure the safety of the persons placed in their custody.
- f- After clearly and repeatedly giving the instruction “Police, stop!” to persons who are trying to flee from them and who do not heed the warning, provided that the attempted escape has been associated with general or special evidence confirming or suggesting that the fliers are the perpetrators.
- g- To stop vehicles crossing their checkpoints despite clear visual signs and verbal warnings.

8 Rights of Suspects and Detainees

- 8-1** Everyone has the right to freedom and personal safety. No person shall be arrested, detained, arbitrarily exiled or deprived of their freedom except in accordance with the law (Article 8 of the Lebanese Constitution and Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). Every employee who deprives any person of their freedom shall be punished under the provisions of Article 367 of the Lebanese Penal Code.
- 8-2** Police members shall inform suspects or defendants of their rights as soon as they arrest them, as set out in Article 47 of

the Criminal Procedures Code, № 328, dated 2/8/2001, and these rights are:

- Contacting a family member, their employer, an attorney of their choice or a relative.
- Meeting with a lawyer they appoint through a statement written down in the investigation report, without the need to a duly prepared proxy.
- Having access to the services of a sworn translator if they do not speak Arabic.
- Petitioning the Prosecutor General, directly, through an attorney or a family member, to be examined by a physician.

This shall be mentioned in the investigation report.

8-3 Police members shall conform to the presumption of innocence principle which dictates that every person charged with a penal offense is innocent until proven guilty by a court of law (Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). They shall be attentive to the special needs of witnesses and make sure they treat all persons in their custody decently and humanely. Police members shall not resort to violence or coercion when interrogating people regardless of the crime they are accused of, and shall not make preconceived or personal judgments against suspects. They shall use legal and scientific techniques to obtain confessions or to prove the commission of the crime, since confessions do not constitute the chief item of evidence but are rather a means of proof, and it falls to the judge to weigh the provided evidence, form a belief and render a judgment based on their personal convictions. This means

that, even if a confession was extracted from a detainee, it will not automatically lead to their conviction by the judge (Article 401 of the Lebanese Penal Code; Article 179 of the Code of Criminal Procedures; General Memo 32/204/D4 of 10/2/1996).

- 8-4** Police members shall take all needed measures to protect the health and safety of detainees and provide them with necessary medical care whenever needed. They shall allow detainees to meet with their parents and ensure their basic needs according to the laws in force.
- 8-5** When police members bring in a juvenile, caught in flagrante delicto, for investigation, they shall immediately inform their parents, guardians or the persons responsible for them, if feasible. They shall also contact a certified social worker and invite them to attend the investigation, which shall not be started without them. Police members shall treat juveniles humanely, and refrain from using violence against them or addressing them with obscene and dirty language. Handcuffs shall be removed from the hands of the juvenile as they give their statement; they shall be seated and separated from other adult detainees immediately (Article 34 of Law 422, dated 6/6/2002, related to the protection of juveniles in conflict with the law or at risk; Service Memo № 207/204/D4, dated 11/10/1999).

9 Compliance with the Code of Conduct

Police members shall obey the law and conform to the Code of Conduct. They shall, to the best of their abilities, prevent any breach of its provisions, and confront any breach strictly and severely. They shall report to their direct superiors – according to the evidence they possess – any violation or suspected violation of this Code. Superiors shall, each according to their legitimate powers, take the necessary measures in this regard. Police members who report such information shall not be subjected to any punishment, unless it is discovered that their reporting is driven by feelings of hatred and ill-will and is based on weak and unfounded premises.

Police members who abide by the Code of Conduct deserve the full respect and support of society and their superiors, and shall be commended and rewarded. As for the members who breach the Code, they shall be subjected to severe sanctions to serve as an example to others.