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Statement on Advancing Judicial Reform in Lebanon

ALEF – act for human rights recognizes the adoption by the Lebanese Parliament of the Law on the Independence of the Judiciary on July 31, 2025, which represents a long-awaited step in Lebanon's judicial reform process. This development comes amid ongoing public demand for accountability and the restoration of trust in state institutions.

While the adoption of this law is an important milestone, ALEF notes that several key aspects of judicial independence and integrity remain insufficiently addressed. Judicial reform in Lebanon must be both comprehensive and aligned with international best practices in order to ensure impartiality, efficiency, and accountability.

Building on our [research paper](#) and roundtable consultation with civil society, ALEF highlights the following priorities which either remain unaddressed or require further strengthening beyond what is contained in the new law:

1. Supporting Inclusive Legislative Workshops on Judicial Reforms

We call for:

- Bi-annual, multi-stakeholder workshops on judicial reform, facilitated by independent experts or CSOs, with the participation of judges, legal professionals, and legislators as contributors.
- Transparency with regards to workshop outcomes to foster accountability and build trust in the reform process.
- Upholding the Lebanese state's obligations under ratified international treaties, such as the ICCPR, CAT, OPCAT, and UNCAC, by integrating them into national judicial reform processes. The UN and other concerned countries should be engaged to continue monitoring progress, support treaty body engagement, and promote transparency in reporting and implementation through diplomatic and technical channels.

2. Advancing Transparent Judicial Selections and Appointments

ALEF calls for:

- Clear, transparency criteria and procedures for judicial selection and nominations
- Structural safeguards to protect the judiciary from undue executive influence, including reforms to the Justice Ministry's control over judges' remuneration and administrative rights.
- Adoption and enforcement of a judicial Code of Ethics based on international best practices like the in the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, and the European Charter on the Statute for Judges.

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3. Promoting Judicial Accountability

We call for:

- Protection for victims, witnesses, judges, and journalists.
- Funding for trial observation and assessments against international standards, such as the UNCAC.
- Implementation of Penal Code articles 417 to 419 related to obstruction of justice.
- Clear and public definitions of judicial misconduct and relevant penalties, ensuring fairness and consistency in disciplinary procedures.

4. Investing in Infrastructure, Capacities, and Digitization within the broader demand for financial independence of the judiciary

ALEF calls for:

- Upgrading judicial facilities, working conditions, and digital systems to improve access to justice.
- Staffing oversight institutions to enable internal accountability.
- Coordination between government, CSOs, and donors to deliver sustainable modernization.
- Strengthening the Institute of Judicial Studies with a focus on human rights and gender mainstreaming.
- Ensuring continuous training for judges and judicial staff on international human rights treaties, including CEDAW, ICCPR, and CAT. through the Institute of Judicial Studies, in collaboration with civil society organizations and relevant UN agencies.

5. Institutionalizing Judicial Communication

We call for:

- Designation of judicial spokespersons to engage the public and media, in alignment with the law on access to information.
- Communication protocols that ensure transparency without compromising independence.
- Dialogue between media and judiciary, supported by training and platforms that foster responsible legal reporting and mutual understanding.
- Launch of public awareness campaigns to promote understanding of judicial independence and the judiciary's role in democratic governance.

An independent judiciary is the cornerstone of a state that respects rights and guarantees equality. ALEF urges all relevant institutions, donors, and fellow stakeholders to engage constructively and consistently in this shared effort.