

# **A comparative study between Lebanon and Scandinavian countries**

At Salam Abdul Samad Law Firm we seek to look beyond our own national borders and especially towards Scandinavia for comparison and debate because of the regions renowned accomplishments with civil society development and inclusion. Therefore, the educational background and experience with the Danish Human Rights situation of our partner abroad can enable our firm to make an interesting comparison of Lebanese governance and civil society efforts.

## **A- On Governance and Human Rights Principles**

Among various objectives, the Salam Abdul Samad Law Firm is dedicated to examine the character of Lebanese governance and their advancement of Human Rights. Our firm believes that one of the most interesting ways to do so is through comparative research. On this basis, our firm decided to collaborate on an international basis with partners abroad. One of these has been Fadi Daouk, a member of the Salam Abdul Samad Law Firm who was active by promoting the Lebanese situation through a comparison to the Danish model for governance in the field of HR.

Denmark was selected on the basis of the significant accomplishments made by Scandinavian countries in the field of civil society development. Partners such as Fadi Daouk offered our firm a significant opportunity to gain insight into the culture of CSOs in Denmark and was thus of great interest to our firm's objective in promoting Human Rights issues internationally.

By employing this comparative perspective, The Salam Abdul Samad Law firm aims to:

- 1- Exemplify to what extent there is a difference in the ways in which governments have developed and carried out their responsibilities towards their citizens.
- 2- Show that governance and the manners of promoting particular principles are far from similar. This is most clear when looking into principles such as Human Rights which are supposed to be universal in nature and practice.

This tab will present the findings our firm has made through the research represented by Fadi Daouk. Our findings consist of qualitative research, field studies and reports.

## **B- Human Rights Initiatives and Situations**

Governance and development as reflected in the field of HR-protection in Lebanon is significant when comparing it to the Danish case.

Whereas Lebanon faces challenges in terms of state legitimacy in national affairs, the Danish government displays a more secure relation between its citizens and itself. For instance, Lebanon can be considered as undergoing a detrimental process for its legal independence in the sense that a politicization of the judicial branch continues to occur. Such dependence between the political and judicial branch of government is, on the other hand, not visible in the Danish manner of governance. It can be argued that this judicial independence in government provides better grounds for the prosecution and protection against HR violations.

There has been a long tradition for the protection and advancement of Human Rights in Danish politics. Progress within the field of HR has advanced Denmark on specific areas of action.

These include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, racism, children's rights, disability rights, torture, Human Rights defenders and the latest phenomena known as corporate social responsibility (CSR).

In this sense, Denmark has shown a more noteworthy and diverse capacity in governance to advance efforts in HR-protection.

### **References used:**

[Domingo, Pilar "Judicialization of politics or politicization of the judiciary? Recent trends in Latin America" Recent trends in Latin America, Democratization, 11:1, 104-126, 2010](#)