

---

**Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva**

Reference No.: 15/1/2/4 – 106/2021

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and with reference to the joint communication from the Special Procedures Branch of OHCHR No. AL LBN 3/2021, dated 16 March 2021, concerning the assassination of the activist Lokman Slim, and with a view to meeting the specified deadline, has the honour to transmit herewith the following responses issued by the competent Lebanese authorities, including the latest developments pertaining to the case (any additional responses will be forwarded as soon as they arrive):

- The response to the communication that was received from the Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Court of Cassation via the Ministry of Justice (annex 1) and the response to the subsequent press release (annex 2);
- The response received from the General Staff, Service and Operations Division of the Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces, in the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities (annex 3).

In this context, the Mission wishes to draw the attention of your honourable Office to the statement in the response of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice that “the investigation is ongoing under the supervision of the competent judicial authorities”.

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva takes this opportunity to convey to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 13 May 2021

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Geneva**

---

**Annex 1**

**Beirut, 12 May 2021**

**A brief overview from the Ministry of Justice of the measures taken to date with respect to the Lokman Slim case pending completion of the legal proceedings**

The following is the response to the content of the joint communication No. AL LBN 3/2021, dated 16 March 2021, which was sent to the Lebanese Government via the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants by a number of Special Rapporteurs who derive their mandate from the United Nations Human Rights Council. The information was provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants by the Ministry of Justice.

With regard to the request in paragraph 2 for detailed information on all the circumstances of the death of Mr. Lokman Slim, we wish to inform you that Mr. Lokman Slim's body was found on the morning of 4 February 2021 in a rented Toyota Corolla vehicle that was parked on the side of a rural road in the village of Addoussieh in the Sidon District. Six gunshot wounds were found in his body.

With regard to the request in paragraph 4 to clarify whether an investigation into the assassination of Mr. Lokman Slim has been launched and to provide detailed and updated information on its current status, we wish to report that as soon as Mr. Lokman Slim's body was found on 4 February 2021, the regional police station launched the necessary investigation in coordination with the competent judicial authorities. A technical crime scene investigation was undertaken by the Specialized Accident Branch of the Scientific Investigation Department. They collected samples, fingerprints and trace materials from the victim's body and clothes, and from the car's interior and exterior, as well as various personal items found inside the car, and a number of envelopes and shells. They were all sent to the Forensic Laboratories Office so that the requisite laboratory analyses could be conducted. A forensic physician was mandated to inspect the body at the crime scene before it was transferred to Sidon Governmental Hospital, where it was examined again in detail and where an autopsy was conducted by the forensic physician. He wrote a report in which he described the victim's health problems and the cause of death represented by a cerebral haemorrhage and fractures to the skull and facial bones caused by gunshots fired by a military weapon. A second autopsy was subsequently conducted at the American University Hospital in Beirut by another forensic physician, who prepared a detailed report which was identical to the first report. In addition, testimonies were provided by persons who had accompanied Mr. Lokman Slim on the evening of 3 February [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A forensic examination of the Toyota Corolla vehicle in which the body was found was also conducted, as well as an examination of the last location [REDACTED] where Mr. Lokman Slim was seen

---

before contact with him was lost. The entire file was sent to the Investigation Branch of the Information Division, where, under the supervision of the competent Public Prosecutor's Office, the testimonies of 27 people were heard, including persons who were with Mr. Lokman Silm on 3 February 2021, the last day before contact with him was lost, a number of [REDACTED], members of [REDACTED], witnesses [REDACTED], residents of [REDACTED] town in [REDACTED] employees of [REDACTED], staff of [REDACTED], and others. The Toyota Corolla vehicle that Mr. Lokman Silm had rented was legally seized and transferred to a garage belonging to the Information Division.

With regard to the question in paragraph 5 as to whether the investigation has led to any outcome, we wish to inform you that the investigation is ongoing under the supervision of the competent judicial authorities. As of 29 April 2021, the reports of the Forensic Laboratories Office concerning the results of laboratory analyses of genetic fingerprints and other materials and their impact in the case of Mr. Lokman Silm's murder had not yet been completed.

---

**Annex 2**

In response to your order No. 2361/206 U 11/A.P., dated 28 April 2021, requesting information and views concerning the press release issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the case of the assassination of activist Lokan Silm, we wish to inform you of the following:

With regard to the statement in the press release that an in-depth, credible and effective investigation into the case is necessary and that the existing investigation has not led to any meaningful result, which raises concerns about its effectiveness, we wish to report that as soon as Mr. Lokman Slim's body was found on 4 February 2021, the regional police station launched the necessary investigation in coordination with the competent judicial authorities. A technical crime scene investigation was undertaken by the Specialized Accident Branch of the Scientific Investigation Department. They collected samples, fingerprints and trace materials from the victim's body and clothes, and from the car's interior and exterior, as well as various personal items found inside the car, and a number of envelopes and shells. They were all sent to the Forensic Laboratories Office so that the requisite laboratory analyses could be conducted.

A forensic physician was mandated to inspect the body at the crime scene before it was transferred to Sidon Governmental Hospital, where it was examined again in detail and where an autopsy was conducted by the forensic physician. He wrote a report in which he described the victim's health problems and the cause of death represented by a cerebral haemorrhage and fractures to the skull and facial bones caused by gunshots fired by a military weapon. A second autopsy was subsequently conducted at the American University Hospital in Beirut by another forensic physician, who prepared a detailed report which was identical to the first report.

In addition, testimonies were provided by persons who had accompanied Mr. Lokman Slim on the evening of 3 February 2021 [REDACTED]. A forensic examination of the Toyota Corolla vehicle in which the body was found was also conducted, as well as an examination of the last location [REDACTED] where Mr. Lokman Slim was seen before contact with him was lost.

The entire file was sent to the Investigation Branch of the Information Division, where, under the supervision of the competent Public Prosecutor's Office, the testimonies of 27 people were heard, including persons who were with Mr. Lokman Silm on 3 February 2021, the last day before contact with him was lost, a number of [REDACTED], members of [REDACTED], witnesses [REDACTED] [REDACTED], residents of [REDACTED], employees of [REDACTED], staff of [REDACTED], and others.

---

The Toyota Corolla vehicle that Mr. Lokman Silm had rented was legally seized and transferred to a garage belonging to the Information Division. The investigation is ongoing, under the supervision of the competent judicial authorities, pending completion of all reports of the Forensic Laboratories Office concerning the results of laboratory analyses of genetic fingerprints and other materials and their impact in the case of Mr. Lokman Silm's murder.

---

**Annex 3**

**Lebanese Republic**

**Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces**

**General Staff, Service and Operations Division**

Ref.: /204U2

Date: / /2021

To: The Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities, Joint Administrative Directorate

The Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cassation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

Subject: Communication from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the assassination of Lokman Slim

We refer to your communication No. 255/8, dated 31 March 2021, concerning a joint communication from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the assassination of activist Lokman Slim.

Having taken note thereof, we wish to state the following:

**I. Rights and legislation**

The Lebanese Government is committed to respecting its international obligations, including article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning protection of the right to life, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, the preamble to the Lebanese Constitution provides the necessary guarantees to enable all persons to exercise their rights to freedom of opinion, expression, belief, affiliation and association.

**II. Facts and procedures**

21. Mr. Lokman Slim's body was found on the morning of 4 February 2021 in a rented Toyota Corolla vehicle that was parked on the side of a rural road in the village of Addoussieh in the Sidon District. Six gunshot wounds were found in his body. The following measures were taken:

211. The regional police station launched the necessary investigation in coordination with the competent judicial authorities. A technical crime scene investigation was undertaken by the Specialized Accident Branch of the Scientific Investigation Department. They collected

---

samples, fingerprints and trace materials from the victim's body and clothes, and from the car's interior and exterior, as well as various personal items found inside the car, and a number of envelopes and shells. They were all sent to the Forensic Laboratories Office so that the requisite laboratory analyses could be conducted.

212. A forensic physician was mandated to inspect the body at the crime scene before it was transferred to Sidon Governmental Hospital, where it was examined again in detail and where an autopsy was conducted by the forensic physician. He wrote a report in which he described the victim's health problems and the cause of death represented by a cerebral haemorrhage and fractures to the skull and facial bones caused by gunshots fired by a military weapon. A second autopsy was subsequently conducted at the American University Hospital in Beirut by another forensic physician, who prepared a detailed report which was identical to the first report.

213. In addition, testimonies were provided by persons who had accompanied Mr. Lokman Slim on the evening of 3 February 2021 [REDACTED]. A forensic examination of the Toyota Corolla vehicle in which the body was found was also conducted, as well as an examination of the last location in [REDACTED] where Mr. Lokman Slim was seen before contact with him was lost.

Under the supervision of the competent Public Prosecutor's Office, the testimonies of 27 people were heard, including persons who were with Mr. Lokman Silm on 3 February 2021, the last day before contact with him was lost, a number of [REDACTED], members of [REDACTED], witnesses [REDACTED] residents of [REDACTED] town in [REDACTED] employees of [REDACTED], staff of the [REDACTED], and others.

214. The Toyota Corolla vehicle that Mr. Lokman Silm had rented was legally seized and transferred to a garage.

22. All reports of the Forensic Laboratories Office concerning the results of laboratory analyses of genetic fingerprints and other materials and their impact in the case of Mr. Lokman Silm's murder were completed and all of them proved negative. This action was combined with procedures for inspection and comparison with the appropriate database, a comprehensive examination of the surveillance cameras, monitoring of telephone communications at the time the crime was perpetrated, and other informational, technical, investigative and technical procedures. The competent judicial authority, namely the Public Prosecutor at the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], then decided to seal the report and deposit it with his Public Prosecutor's Office. Accordingly, the

---

investigation was sealed on 7 May 2021, and all the reports, attachments, seizures and the entire file were deposited with the competent Public Prosecutor's Office.