

Thursday, March 12, 2026

**A Human Rights Statement Issued by the Arab Network for Child Rights - Manara  
Regarding Grave Violations of Children's Rights in Lebanon**

**Covering the Period from March 2 to March 12, 2026**

**Warning Against the Repetition of Violations Against Children**

*What children in Lebanon are currently experiencing raises serious concerns about the repetition of tragic scenarios similar to those witnessed in Palestine, where large numbers of children were killed as a result of military operations and civilian infrastructure was widely destroyed. We strongly warn against the recurrence of such a scenario in Lebanon and affirm that protecting children from grave violations threatening their lives and future constitutes an international legal obligation that cannot be neglected.*

The Arab Network for Child Rights – Manara expresses its deep concern and strong condemnation of the grave and unprecedented violations that children in Lebanon are facing as a result of the military escalation that began in early March 2026. These violations constitute a clear breach of international obligations, foremost among them the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** and the **Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict**, in addition to the rules of **international humanitarian law**, which require the protection of civilians, especially children, at all times.

This escalation comes within the context of a deep humanitarian and economic crisis that Lebanon has been experiencing for years, where children already suffer from rising poverty levels, food insecurity, and deteriorating basic services, making them among the most vulnerable groups affected by any military escalation.

According to the latest field data, the military escalation has resulted in the death of **at least 634 people and the injury of 1,586 others**, including **91 children killed and 275 children injured with varying degrees of severity** since the beginning of the escalation.

Recent days have also witnessed horrific massacres against civilians, including the **massacres of Burj Al-Shamali and Ramlet Al-Baida**, which resulted in several civilian casualties, including children, raising serious concerns about the continued targeting of densely populated civilian areas.

The **Lebanese Red Cross** teams were also targeted in the town of **Majdal Zoun** while carrying out a rescue operation following a previous airstrike, resulting in the injury of two paramedics. This constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law, which requires the respect and protection of humanitarian and medical personnel, as well as ambulance and rescue teams, at all times. In addition, airstrikes occurred near some shelters hosting displaced families, causing widespread fear and panic among children and families residing there.

**Children Most at Risk** Certain groups of children are disproportionately affected by the consequences of the conflict, including **children with disabilities, Palestinian and Syrian refugee children, unaccompanied or separated children, children living in extreme poverty, and girls at risk of gender-based violence and early marriage**. These conditions represent a clear violation of **Article (2)** of the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning non-discrimination and **Article (23)** concerning the rights of children with disabilities.

**Displacement and Forced Movement** Military operations have led to a large-scale wave of displacement affecting approximately **759,300 displaced persons**. More than **122,600 people** are currently living in **580 collective shelters** under overcrowded conditions that often lack privacy and basic services, while many others are staying with host families.

Some families, including children, have been forced to remain in unsafe locations due to the lack of appropriate alternatives, exposing them to multiple risks including violence, exploitation, worsening health conditions, and increased levels of trauma and fear.

**Physical and Psychological Harm** In addition to human losses, children face further risks due to **unexploded ordnance and remnants of war** scattered across affected areas. Many also suffer deep psychological impacts resulting from repeated bombardment, forced displacement, and the loss of homes or family members. Field reports indicate increasing cases of **anxiety, sleep disorders, and loss of a sense of safety** among children.

**Disruption of Basic Services** The conflict has caused widespread disruption of essential services. Many **schools have closed or have been converted into shelters for displaced persons**. The **health sector has also been severely affected, with five hospitals rendered out of service, four hospitals damaged, and 43 primary health care centers closed**.

**Protection of Children in Armed Conflict** The Arab Network for Child Rights – Manara recalls that the protection of children in armed conflict constitutes a clear obligation under **UN Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict**, which emphasize the necessity of preventing grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, forced displacement, and denial of humanitarian assistance.

The network stresses that these violations constitute serious breaches of **international humanitarian law and international human rights law**, and in some cases may amount to crimes requiring accountability and prosecution through relevant international mechanisms.

Intensive airstrikes carried out on **11 and 12 March 2026** have further aggravated the humanitarian situation, with increasing displacement among families and many children forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in shelters or safer areas under extremely difficult humanitarian conditions.

### Human Rights Demands

The Arab Network for Child Rights – Manara calls upon the **League of Arab States, the United Nations, and the international community** to:

- **Immediately halt attacks and military operations targeting civilians and ensure full protection for children.**
- **Protect schools, hospitals, and shelters and respect the rules of international humanitarian law.**
- **Ensure unhindered humanitarian access to all affected areas.**
- **Increase humanitarian funding and support directed to children and displaced families.**
- **Open independent investigations and hold those responsible for violations accountable in accordance with international law.**

What children in Lebanon are experiencing today are not merely numbers in humanitarian reports, but daily violations of their **right to life, safety, and dignity**. The continuation of these violations without accountability threatens an entire generation of children with the loss of their future.

Protecting children is not only a humanitarian choice but a **binding legal and moral obligation for the international community**, requiring urgent and effective action to stop violations and ensure the safety and future of children.

#### Signatories from the Middle East and North Africa Region:

- Arab Network for Child Rights – Manara – Middle East and North Africa
- Algerian Network for Child Rights – NADA Network – Algeria
- Egyptian Coalition for Child Rights – Egypt
- Child Rights Coalition – Lebanon
- Humanitarian and Development Forum for NGOs in Lebanon – Lebanon
- Palestinian Human Rights Organization – Lebanon
- Mauritanian Association for Maternal and Child Health – Mauritania
- Democratic School – Yemen
- Impossible Association – Lebanon
- Baygti Association – Morocco
- Developmental Action Without Borders – Naba'a – Lebanon
- CLAC KAA Organization – Lebanon
- Amal Organization for Family and Child – Tunisia
- Popular Aid Organization – Iraq
- Soul for Development Organization – Yemen
- Qader for Community Development Organization – Palestine
- Mizan Organization for Law – Jordan
- Michel Daher Foundation – Lebanon
- Lebanese Center for Human Rights – Lebanon