

Jaafar Fakih

Ayoub Tower, Independence Ave., Achrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon | jaafaralfakih@gmail.com | +961 70 017 462 | [LinkedIn](#)

EXPERIENCE

The International Humanitarian Law Centre, Beirut, Lebanon 9/2024 – 7/2025

Legal Adviser (Middle East), full-time

- Led the design and implementation of three workshops piloting a due diligence tool with more than 40 humanitarian organizations, primarily engaged in operations across the Middle East and Africa.
- Delivered capacity-building trainings on international law, reaching nearly 50 humanitarian organizations across regional and international operations.
- Produced in-depth legal research and contextual analysis on protection issues in the Middle East, delivering legal interpretation and targeted guidance to a range of stakeholders, including think tanks, civil society organizations, humanitarian actors, and survivor groups.

International Commission on Missing Persons, Beirut, Lebanon

Syria/MENA Program Civil Society Initiatives Coordinator, full-time 1/2024 – 8/2024

- Implemented outreach and engagement activities with victims' associations and civil society actors to promote an impartial, survivor-centered, and inclusive missing persons process in Syria.
- Designed and implemented four capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing the engagement of seven Syrian family associations based in the Middle East with accountability mechanisms.
- Built and sustained trusted relationships with at least 60 civil society organizations and 20 victims' associations in Syria, neighboring countries, and Europe.
- Led on proposal development, donor reporting, and other fundraising and grant implementation materials to support program sustainability and strategic growth.

International Commission on Missing Persons, Beirut, Lebanon

Syria/MENA Program Senior Coordinator, full-time 1/2023 – 12/2023

- Managed the implementation of US and UK-funded projects, amounting to over USD 1.5 million.
- Co-led on outreach to donors and contributed to the development of strategies and proposals that strengthen public participation in shaping a state-led missing persons' process in Syria.
- Led on the drafting of donor reports, capturing success stories, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Mapped and coordinated outreach to civil society actors and families of missing persons in Syria, its neighboring countries, and Europe.
- Advised on operational and political obstacles that undermine the active and meaningful engagement of victims and civil society in the process of accounting for missing persons.
- Served as an interim lead for the Syria/MENA Program in the absence of the Program Manager.

International Commission on Missing Persons, Beirut, Lebanon

Syria/MENA Program Officer, full-time 9/2019 – 12/2022

- Conducted 55 outreach seminars with over 1,100 families of missing persons in Lebanon, Türkiye, the Netherlands, the UK, and Syria, raising awareness on rights of the families and assisted in reporting missing persons on the organization's data collection application.
- Promoted, co-developed and monitored the implementation of four projects with civil society organizations, amounting to over USD 45,000.
- Delivered a training to over 50 civil society representatives based in Syria, its neighboring countries, and Europe, on the rule of law and the legal framework of the issue of missing persons.

- Facilitated networking and learning events that were attended by over 70 representatives of Syrian civil society organizations.
- Developed and implemented post-activity tools to measure percentage increase in knowledge for families and civil society representatives.
- Mapped Syrian civil society organizations and Syrian communities in Germany and the Netherlands.

Oxfam, Beirut, Lebanon

Livelihoods and Advocacy Network Officer, full-time

6/2018 – 8/2019

- Led efforts to establish and maintain a network of 18 civil society organizations.
- Designed and oversaw the implementation of capacity-building workshops on Lebanon's labor law, advocacy, and strategic planning.
- Facilitated the development of an advocacy workplan for the network, which aimed to advocate for the protection of workers that are excluded from Lebanon's labor code.
- Supported the Program Manager in overseeing a spending plan for the network.

European Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, Beirut, Lebanon

Advocacy Officer, full-time

12/2015 – 6/2018

- Coordinated advocacy initiatives at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. This included facilitating meetings between activists and diplomatic missions, drafting oral interventions, and organizing a side event at the UN in Geneva.
- Prepared more than 90 complaints to the UN Special Procedures, alleging violations of the right to health in Egypt, Lebanon and Bahrain using primary and secondary data.
- Conducted in-person and online interviews with health workers and activists, documenting attacks on health facilities in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

Sayara International, Beirut, Lebanon

Consultant, part-time

7 – 9/2015

- Led qualitative data collection through interviews and focus groups with community influencers, human rights defenders, and youth to analyze the root causes of radicalization in Lebanon.
- Conducted daily monitoring of 40+ social media accounts to detect, analyze, and report radical rhetoric and online threats.

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

9/2021 – 9/2023

- Master of Science in International Human Rights Law, *merit*.
- Authored a dissertation critically analyzing the consequences of absent explicit protections for sexual minorities in international humanitarian and human rights law, framed by an examination of ISIS-perpetrated crimes.

Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL

8/2011 – 5/2015

- B.A. in International Relations and Human Rights Studies, *cum laude*.
- Senior Prize in International Relations, awarded at graduation by faculty nomination.
- Studied abroad at Peking University in Beijing, China and in Paris, France.

Red Cross Nordic United World College, Flekke, Norway

7/2009 – 5/2011

- Bilingual (English and French) International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

PERSONAL

- Fluent in Arabic. Intermediate in French.