

5 March 2019

### **Lebanon: Human rights defender Ghassan Abdallah summoned for interrogation**

On 4 March 2019, at around 5 pm, human rights defender Ghassan Abdallah received a summons notice to his home address requesting that he present himself on 6 March at the offices of the General Directorate of the Lebanese General Security. The human rights defender was not provided with any details of the reasons for the summons.

[Ghassan Abdallah](#) is the founder and executive director of the Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (PHRO), an NGO established in 1997 and registered under the Lebanese law. PHRO, which primarily focuses on the rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, is a member of the International Federation of Human Rights, the EuroMed Rights, and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights.

On 14 May 2018, the human rights defender was summoned for interrogation and was subsequently detained at the General Directorate of the Lebanese General Security. On 15 May 2018, Ghassan Abdallah was transferred into the custody of Lebanese Military Intelligence for interrogation. He was released on 16 May 2018.

Front Line Defenders expresses its concern regarding the summons of Ghassan Abdallah for interrogation as it believes that this is solely motivated by his peaceful and legitimate work in the defence of human rights in Lebanon.

### **Front Line Defenders urge the authorities in Lebanon to :**

1. Cease the targetting of human rights defenders in Lebanon;
2. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Lebanon are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.