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Female prisoners get musical rehabilitation

BEIRUT: Female inmates at the Barbar Khazen jail in Beirut were treated on Friday to a musical performance, as part of a rehabilitation program by the Social Movement (SM) and European NGO Resonance.

The head of Lebanon's Resonance branch, Shirine Maalouf, was joined by the international head of the NGO, Elizabeth Sombart, who performed a piano recital for the inmates.

Also on hand were the jail's warden, First Lieutenant Eddy Kahwaji, SM's representative to the Lebanese state, Nadi Tayyan, SM's staff, representatives of parties funding SM's project at Barbar Khazen, and a number of ISF members and prison staff.

The concert was part of a social rehabilitation and integration program for female prison inmates, which SM established in 1998 at the jail, located in the neighborhood in Verdun.

Based on the program, women undergo vocational training to acquire qualifications facilitating their integration in society after serving their sentence in jail.

On behalf of the Social Movement, Gizelle Ashqar told The Daily Star said that the concert was a unique event. "Since Resonance works on introducing music to places lacking it, which is a goal that serves SM's mission in improving the prisoners conditions, both sides agreed on organizing this performance at the jail," said Ashqar, adding that Sombart arrived from Switzerland especially to take part.

The unique program also pays special attention to the social, psychological, educational and judicial