



المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



Translated Version

Beirut, September 6, 2007

For the Alleviation of Suffering, Building up Confidence Bridges and Bolstering of Relations between the Lebanese and Palestinians ...

Cessation of Clashes in Naher El-Bared calls for urgent response to all pleas and recommendations!!!

The Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO looks with great relief at the cessation of hostilities in Naher El-Bared Camp between the Lebanese Army and the so called (Fateh El-Islam Group) which continued for over three months and resulted in grave losses in life and property and caused the displacement of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese families who were residing in the camp and its environs. In this respect the PHRO extends its condolences to all the civilian and military families of the bereaved, expresses its hope for the quick recovery of all injured persons and trusts that what has befallen in Naher El-Bared will lead to more cooperation and brotherhood between the Lebanese and the Palestinians in a safe, stable and flourishing Lebanon.

The PHRO further expresses its deepest regret and its denouncement of the violations and harassment (arbitrary arrests and detention, torture...) that civilian Palestinians have been subjected to, particularly in Northern Lebanon, at the hands of security forces, just for the sake of being Palestinian, at a time when most Lebanese official statements and releases praised the cooperation and consideration shown by Palestinians and affirmed that they had nothing to do with what was going on. Within this context, the PHRO renews its repeated appeals to all concerned authorities to solve all problems affecting the displaced families as well as the Lebanese and Palestinian people, with a view to alleviating the difficulties and suffering that the families whom left their places of residence have borne and still continue to bear; simultaneously to strengthening the relation between the two peoples and building the bridges of confidence and understanding between them in view of the attempts of some parties to exploit the present conditions to instigate certain Lebanese circles neighboring Naher El-Bared Camp against the Palestinian presence and the return of the displaced refugees..

The PHRO therefore draws the attention of all the concerned to the following:

1- Conducting a speedy investigation of the practices and violations committed by members of the Lebanese security forces to the Palestinians, as well as of the military faults and mistakes that have led to the loss of life of some civilians, which we have previously spotlighted on in our reports and press releases.

2- The necessity of the immediate release of every detainee not criminally involved with the Naher El-Bared incidents in compliance with the international legal precept that everyone



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charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty and ensuring a fair trial for those proven guilty in an impartial and independent court of law, taking into consideration that any confession obtained under duress is considered null and void.

3- Affording Serious and immediate assistance in ensuring health and medical care to all detainees, particularly to afflicted ones, and transferring them to hospitals in case of need.

4- Opening immediate investigations to ascertain the circumstances that led to cases of death among Palestinian detainees and clarifying uncertainties besetting any case for the purpose of imposing a fair punishment for negligence until such regrettable incidents no longer take place, which would preserve the right to life, freedom and personal safety.

5- Urgent and serious action for establishing alternatives of provisional and suitable accommodation for the displaced families to guarantee their right to enjoy adequate healthy living conditions and a minimum of comfort in accordance with international covenants and conventions that guarantee human rights without any distinction based on ethnic, color, national or social origin or on any other distinction, and in order to avoid exploitation of their situation by any party for objectives that are unrelated to refugee interests though they might appear to be so.

6- UNRWA, being an international agency, should observe accepted tendering standards for the rental of land in the wake of building temporary shelters for refugees. UNRWA should adopt these standards via opening bids, selecting the best bid in accordance with contract specifications with no favoritism and in full neutrality, transparency and objectivity, also in contract signing, ratification and renewal by agreement between the two signatories, thus avoiding possible legal disputes that may possibly arise had this not been done.

7- The Lebanese Government should facilitate all legal proceedings required for providing alternative living shelters, such as licensing and other matters.

8- The necessity for the Lebanese Government to solve the problem of the deprivation of the Palestinian refugees from their right of ownership by the dictates of arbitrary law 296/2001, as a preventive measure so that no one may be arbitrarily divested of his property and so that rights-owning Palestinians - particularly in the so called the New Camp - will not suffer the loss of their property.

9- The importance of forming a combined committee to include, in addition to the representatives of the Lebanese Government, the Palestine Liberation Organization, UNRWA, representatives of Lebanese and Palestinians whose ownership rights have been hurt, as well as



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specialized experts with responsibility for setting the basis for the guarantee and preservation of rights through the legal and executive obstacles and to take responsibility for the estimation of all damaged movable and immovable properties so that fair reparations can be paid later.

10- Conducting an investigation of the burglaries of houses and shops in the camp which have included precious possessions (jewelry, furniture...) and stored goods with the object of prosecuting the culprits and having them tried before a court of law to receive the punishment they deserve.

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