



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)



Beirut, 24 May 2007

Urgent Open Letter

In accordance with the painful events taking place in Naher El-Bared Camp and its surroundings, along with the severe humanitarian tragedies that are affecting the innocent civilian Palestinians, we at the Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO would like to draw the attention of all the concerned bodies to the fact of the Non-ID¹ families' presence amongst the conflicts' areas.

Non-ID families are frightened from leaving the camp due to lack of IDs, which might lead to their capture at one of the very various Lebanese Army Checkpoints on all the roads leading to Naher El-Bared Camp. Within such circumstances, the Non-IDs found themselves obliged to stay in the Camp, endangering their lives by exposing it to the bombardments.

Considering such situation, we urge and call upon the concerned Lebanese bodies to hastily develop a mechanism that ensure the safe evacuation of these families into another secure place so as they do not face the challenge of either staying in the camp exposing themselves to the clashes, or to leave the camp and render themselves to the detention.

Another apprehensive fact, is the presence of judiciary wanted youth and juveniles amongst the civilians in Naher El-Bared Camp. They are either committed or were charged with crimes, BUT not in relation with the criminal and terrorist acts conducted by (Fateh El-Islam).

Those youth and juveniles are also afraid from leaving the camp to avoid being arrested within such circumstance, fearing from being exposed to collective punishment. Hence, they are subjecting their and their families' lives - whom are forced by emotion to stay with them - to the dangerous situation, which is threatening all their lives.

With respect to these facts, that violate the person's right to life (UDHR² - article 3), we appeal to the Lebanese Authorities not to be effected by such circumstances, where a distinction should take place between the criminals and the terrorists.

Within this context, and in accordance with the International Human Rights Norms amongst which we mention (UDHR - article 10), we call the concerned bodies amongst the Lebanese Authorities to declare official guarantees that secure the matter of a fair trail for those people. Such guarantees could pledge a comfortable climate, which encourage those youth and their families to leave the camp; otherwise, they will find themselves exposed to death within the camp. Nevertheless, we stress on the necessity to drop the charges for those who were persecuted due to their affiliation, which is contrary to the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, & association, where no one may be compelled to belong to an association (UDHR - article 20).

Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO

¹ The majority of Non-Identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are Palestinians who entered Lebanon in the 1970s due to the Black September events, and who over the past three decades have expanded to include their purposes, descendents, and other immediate family. Other Non-Identified refugees are Palestinians who were in Lebanon for other reasons (work, education, family...etc), became trapped in Lebanon, and were refused re-entry to their previous countries of residence. http://www.palhumanrights.org/reports/phro_%20report_non-id.pdf

² Universal Declaration of Human Rights - UDHR