

Ein El-Hilweh Wavel Rashidieh Dbayeh Burj El-Shemal El Buss Mieh Mi  
Burj El-Barajneh Beddawi Nahr El-Bared Mar Elias Shatila Ein El-Hilwe  
Wavel Rashidieh Dbayeh Burj El-Shemal El Buss Mieh Mieh Burj El-Bar  
Beddawi Nahr El-Bared Mar Elias Shatila Ein El-Hilweh Wavel Rashidie  
Burj El-Shemal El Buss Mieh Mieh Burj El-Barajneh Beddawi Nahr El-B  
Mar Elias Shatila Ein El-Hilweh Wavel Rashidieh Dbayeh Burj El-Shemal  
El Buss Mieh Mieh Burj El-Barajneh Beddawi Nahr El-Bared Mar Elias  
Ein El-Hilweh Wavel Rashidieh Dbayeh Burj El-Shemal El Buss Mieh Mi  
Dbayeh Beddawi Nahr El-Bared Mar Elias Shatila Ein El-Hilweh El Buss  
Wavel Rashidieh Dbayeh Burj El-Shemal El Buss Burj El-Barajneh Mar  
Mieh Mieh Beddawi Nahr El-Bared Mar Elias Shatila Ein El-Hilweh Wav  
Shatila Burj El-Shemal El Buss Mieh Mieh Burj El-Barajneh Beddawi N

Joint NGO Submission to  
the Office of the High  
Commissioner for Human  
Rights on the Occasion of  
the 9th session of the  
Universal Periodic Review  
2010

Lebanon

A Selective Submission on Palestinian Socio-  
Economic and Civil Rights in Lebanon

April 12, 2010

**Preparing and Printing this report are part of the Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO Human Rights Education Program (2009 – 2011) supported by Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beirut**



**The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent or reflect the official opinion of the Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beirut**



# **THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established by General Assembly resolution 60/251 of March 2006, is a new unique human rights mechanism of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council aiming at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 192 UN Member States.

Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4 years (48 States are reviewed each year during 3 UPR dedicated to 16 States each).

The result of each review is reflected in an “outcome report” listing the recommendations made to the State under Review including those that it accepted.

The UPR is a full-circle process comprising 3 key stages:

1. Review of the human rights situation of the State under Review
2. Implementation between two reviews (4 years) of the recommendations accepted and voluntary pledges and commitments by the State under Review
3. Reporting at the next review on the implementation of those recommendations and pledges and on the human rights situation in the country since the previous review

**Joint NGO Submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review on Lebanon  
November 2010**

**Selective Submission on  
Palestinian Socio-Economic and Civil Rights in Lebanon**

This report was researched, drafted and supported by a number of civil society organizations that are active in Lebanon where the majority of them directly target Palestinian refugees in their programs.

From January 31 until February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO held, with the kind support of the Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beirut a resident training course on UN and EU Mechanism of Protection and Organizing Advocacy Campaigns. Sixteen NGOs, actively participated in the training and directly afterwards the PHRO selected, based on several evaluation stages, eight participants out of the twenty-four in order to draft this report.

Then the PHRO together with the eight trainees who represent different civil society organizations, started to prepare the report and hold meetings with other NGOs to raise their awareness about this mechanism and the initiative in total. Efforts were consolidated and coordinated in order to submit only one joint report about the human rights situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. During March 2010, the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) – Lebanon, joined the PHRO in leading this process where we all succeeded at the end to prepare this joint report.

The PHRO also joined other coalitions that were preparing joint UPR submissions, as a researching, drafting and supporting organization, where we were responsible about the inclusion of the sections and recommendations related to the Palestinian refugees human rights situation, whether civil, economic, social or cultural. Hereby, the PHRO played an essential role in systematizing information and recommendations related to the Palestinian refugees' human rights situation in Lebanon, in light of the present report.

**List of researching, drafting and information consolidation committee:**

**- *in Alphabetic Order* -**

1. Joint Christian Committee for Social Services -JCC
2. Najdeh Association
3. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) – Lebanon
4. Palestinian Cultural Club – Chatila Camp
5. Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO
6. Right to Play International – Lebanon Office
7. Shahed Association for Human Rights
8. Women Programs Association – Ain El Hilweh Camp Center

**The Following NGOs contributed by information and supported this report by signing it: - *in Alphabetic Order* -**

1. Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
2. Arab Resource Center for Popular Art 'Al-Jana'
3. Ard Al-Tofoula Association
4. Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps 'Inaash'
5. Center for Refugee Rights 'Aidoun'
6. Child and Youth Center

7. Developmental Action Without Borders 'Nabaa'
8. Fraternity Association for Social and Educational Work
9. Frontiers Center
10. General Union of Palestinian Women – Lebanon Branch
11. Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation
12. Health Care Society
13. Human Development Center
14. Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering
15. National Association for Social Medical Care & Vocational Training
16. National Association for Vocational Training and Social services
17. National Institution for Social Care & Vocational Training
18. Palestinian Arab Women League
19. Palestinian Disability Forum
20. Popular Aid for Relief and Development
21. Social Communication Center 'Ajial'
22. Thabit Organization for The Right of Return
23. Women Humanitarian Organization

**Joint NGO Submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review on Lebanon**  
**November 2010**

**Selective Submission on  
Palestinian Socio-Economic and Civil Rights in Lebanon**

1. This submission has been researched and drafted by the following organizations Norwegian People's Aid – Lebanon (Wafa El-Yassir, Country Director), Palestinian Human Rights Organization, (Ghassan Abdullah, General Director), The National Institution for Social Care & Vocational Training (Kassem Aina, General Director), The National Association for Vocational Training and Social services (Sukeina Salameh, Director), The National Association for Social Medical Care & Vocational Training (Raja Musleh, Director), The Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation (Anni Kanafani, Vice-Chairperson), Association Najdeh (Laila El-Ali, Executive Director), Arab Resource Center for Popular Art 'Al-Jana' (Mo'taz Dajani, General Coordinator), The Popular Aid for Relief and Development (Rita Hamdan, Director), Palestinian Arab Women League (Samia Khartabeel, President), The Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps 'Inaash' (Leila Gharib, Director), General Union of Palestinian Women – Lebanon Branch (Amneh Suleiman, President), Developmental Action Without Borders 'Nabaa' (Kassem Saad, General Director), The Center for Refugee Rights 'Aidoun' (Jaber Suleiman, Coordinator), Joint Christian Committee 'JCC' (Sylvia Haddad, Director), Thabit Organization for The Right of Return (Ali Heweidi, General Manager), Witness Association For Human Rights (Mahmoud Hanafi, Director), Human Development Center (Suheil El-Natour, Director), Social Communication Center 'Ajial' (Rabee Salah, Director), Palestinian



Disability Forum (Kassem Sabah, Coordinator), Child and Youth Center (Mahmoud Abbas, Director), Fraternity Association for Social and Educational Work (Hassan El- Mustafa, President), Women Humanitarian Organization (Olfat Mahmoud, Director), Frontiers Center (Samira Trad, Director), The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (Jumana Merhi, President), Arab NGO Network for Development (Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director), Health Care Society (Bahija Mayyasi, Executive Director), Women Programs Association (Shadia Al-Hajali, President), Ard Al-Tofoula Association (Shadia Al-Hajali, Director)

2. This submission focuses on six key civil, economic and social rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: The Right to Work, the Right to Own Property, the Right to Legal Personality, the Right to Freedom of Movement, Arbitrary Detention and Right to Fair Trial, and the Right to Adequate Housing. It draws on reports prepared and published by the presenting coalition of NGOs, and suggests measures for redress which can be implemented by the Lebanese government within the coming 4 years.
3. Lebanon has been a reluctant host to Palestinian refugees since 1948. The question of naturalizing refugees is one of the most contentious political issues in Lebanon today used to justify the lack of basic human rights denied to Palestinians even though the Lebanese constitution stated in its preamble on paragraph B that “Lebanon is also a founding and active member of the United Nations Organization and abides by its covenants and by the Universal Declaration of Human Right. The Government shall embody these principles in all fields and areas without exception.” Furthermore, Article (2) of the Lebanese Code of Civil Proceedings states that: “in the case of a conflict between national and international law, the latter shall prevail.”

4. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are divided into three categories: 1) Registered Refugees with both UNRWA<sup>1</sup> and the Lebanese Authorities; 2) Non Registered Refugees (NR) which are only registered with the Lebanese Authorities<sup>2</sup>; 3) Undocumented Refugees (Non-ID) who are not registered neither by UNRWA nor the Lebanese Authorities (see section III of the report).
5. Despite that Palestinian refugees have been residing in Lebanon for 62 years, however, the Lebanese legislator did not define who the Palestinian refugee in Lebanon is. The Lebanese legislation addresses Palestinian refugees sometime as foreigners, sometime as a "special category of foreigners", and sometime as Palestinian refugees. **Our first recommendation for the Lebanese Government is to adopt a clear definition, in law, of who is a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon.**

## I. THE RIGHT TO WORK

6. In June 2005, the Lebanese minister of labor took a step towards affording the right to work for Palestinians in Lebanon by lifting, through a ministerial decree<sup>3</sup>, the ban on nearly 70 manual and clerical jobs. Consecutive Labor ministers since 2005 reiterated the exclusion of Palestinian refugees born and residing officially in Lebanon from the ban on manual and clerical jobs imposed on foreigners.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that UNRWA registration means that the Palestinian refugee registered with UNRWA can benefit from UNRWA services and this has nothing to do with enjoyment of rights

<sup>2</sup> There are approximately 30,000 refugees not registered with UNRWA because they do not fit the definition in UNRWA's mandate of who is entitled to register. UNRWA definition states that "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict". This category was displaced from Palestinian after the conflict.

<sup>3</sup> These decrees have to be re-issued at the beginning of each year, and can be easily revoked.

7. This initiative did not end legal discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon, as it did not include independent or high-status professions requiring, by law, membership in professional syndicates. In Lebanon, there is up to 30 syndicated professions including lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and engineers. Generally, to be member of a syndicate, either Lebanese nationality is required or the principle of reciprocity is to be applied. As Palestinians have no State, the principle of reciprocity is interpreted as to deny them the right to adhere to the syndicate.
8. Moreover, in order to qualify for the new jobs and professions made available, refugees need to obtain a work permit. The work permits constitute a *de facto* restrictive process because of the bureaucratic technicalities and the prohibitive fees charged for a permit which has deterred both the refugee employee and the employer who share the cost of the fees.
9. Also, their rights won't be enhanced with a work permit, seeing that they are still not eligible to receive social services. Legally working Palestinians pay social security taxes, but are ineligible for any benefits as this falls under the reciprocity principle.
10. While recognizing that Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are non-nationals, the protracted and non-temporary nature of their residency in Lebanon – more than 60 years – does not justify the limitations imposed on Palestinian refugees' right to work as non-nationals (Art. 2 para. 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and constitutes, therefore, a discriminatory practice in violation of Article 2 para. 2 of the ICESCR, and of article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at preventing discrimination.

11. Any other reasoning put forth by the Lebanese government is a violation of article 6 of the covenant and undermines (and has undermined in practice) the dignity of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Current Lebanese State legislation is also in violation of Article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) which affords “the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favorable remuneration” (para. i). Article 5 of the CERD is to be applicable to non-nationals as per Article 1, paragraph 2, which is construed so as to avoid undermining the basic prohibition of discrimination (General Recommendation No.30: Discrimination Against Non Citizens para. 2).

**12. Our recommendation is for the Lebanese Government to adopt the draft law proposed by Palestinian committees and organizations, in March 2010, which:**

- a. Exempts Palestinian refugees officially registered at the Lebanese Ministry of Interior from the need to obtain work permits from the ministry of labor<sup>4</sup>; and**
- b. Gives them the benefits afforded in labor law on equal foot to Lebanese laborers, including benefits of social security<sup>5</sup>; and**
- c. Exempts Palestinian refugees officially registered at the Lebanese Ministry of Interior from the application of the principle of reciprocity.<sup>6</sup>**

---

<sup>4</sup> Article 1 of the draft law.

<sup>5</sup> Article 2 of the draft law.

<sup>6</sup> Article 3 of the draft law.

## II. THE RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY

13. In 2001, the Lebanese legislator amended the 1969 legislative decree concerning the obtainment of real estate property by non-Lebanese (decree no. 11614 of 14 January 1969). The amendment No. 296, dated 3 April 2001, prohibited ownership of realty of any kind “by any person who does not hold citizenship from a recognized State or to any person where such ownership contravenes the provisions of the Constitution concerning naturalization”.
14. Prior to the amendment, Palestinians, like foreigners, had the right to own up to 5000 square meters outside of Beirut and up to 3000 square meters in Beirut, without the need for a permit. The 2001 law deliberately excluded Palestinians from owning real estate property, as they are the only foreigners not having a “nationality of a recognized state”. Property owned by Palestinians before 2001 was no longer inheritable. Property bought and paid for, fully or partially (in installments), before the 2001 legislative amendment, was no longer eligible for registration at the national registrar or Cadastre Office.<sup>7</sup>
15. The Lebanese 2001 legislation is a violation to article 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which guarantees in its paragraphs 5 and 6 the right to everyone, without distinction based on nationality, the right to own property and the right to inherit. While, Article 1 (2) of the CERD allows signatory states to make “distinctions, exclusions, restrictions and preferences between citizens and non-citizens”, the law only singled out the Palestinian refugees and not all non citizens.

---

<sup>7</sup> Registration at the Cadastre Office – not the contract – generates real estate rights in the Lebanese legal system.

**16. Our recommendation to end discrimination in realty ownership is for the Lebanese Government to amend the 2001 law to allow the Palestinian refugees to own real estate property.**

### **III. RIGHT TO LEGAL PERSONALITY**

17. 5000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are not registered with the Lebanese government, nor with the UNRWA.<sup>8</sup> These refugees currently residing in Lebanon originate from the West Bank and Gaza, and were denied renewal of their documents by the countries which gave them these documents initially. Their descendents born in Lebanon from a Palestinian or Lebanese mother are undocumented.

18. Without any proof of existence, they are unable to access basic health services, education, humanitarian aid or the employment market, and are denied civil, social and economic rights, including owning cars or motorbikes which require registration. Registration of marriages of undocumented males and registration of newborns to undocumented males, are impossible.

19. The Lebanese Ministry of Interior had begun issuing special papers for temporary residence to undocumented Palestinians in 2008, which are no longer valid<sup>9</sup>. Issuance was discontinued until early 2010, following protests and demonstrations in December 2009 by undocumented Palestinians and human rights organizations. Till date, efforts by Lebanese authorities to regularize their situation have not succeeded in sustainably and irreversibly affording IDs to this segment of the Palestinian population in Lebanon.

---

<sup>8</sup> According to statistics published by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the Danish Refugee Council and the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations (PHRO).

<sup>9</sup> Temporary residence is valid up to one year, then the undocumented Palestinian has to re-apply if the authorities were accepting applications.

20. Moreover, the purpose of the special papers for temporary residence is only to identify the holder and to allow him or her to move without the fear of getting arrested and thrown in jail, but it does not permit them to work, register in schools and universities, or receive healthcare or register marriages.
21. The right to identity is a fundamental human right, and a pre-requisite for the enjoyment of civic, economic and social rights as stipulated in article 11 of the ICCPR.
- 22. Our recommendation is for the Lebanese Government to take a decision to grant identifications documents to undocumented Palestinian refugees, in a sustainable and irrevocable process that would ensure the dignity of this population, and their right to legal personality as well as equality with documented Palestinian refugees.**

## **IV. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

### **Camps in South Lebanon**

23. Differing from other Palestinian refugee camps over the Lebanese territories, camps in southern Lebanon<sup>10</sup> are besieged and fenced all around with very narrow and limited number of entrances and exits. For instance Rashidieh camp population is more than 27,500 registered refugees<sup>11</sup>, all passing through one entrance–exit check point. Restrictions are imposed on these camps at night starting from 9 p.m. Every entrance to and exit from the southern camps, beyond

---

<sup>10</sup> The three camps in Tyre: (Rashidieh Camp: one entrance – exit, Burj Al-Shamali Camp: one entrance-exit and Al Buss Camp: one entrance and one exit). The two camps in Saida (Ain Al Hilweh: four entrances-exits, and Mieh w Mieh Camp: one entrance – exit)

<sup>11</sup> UNRWA, Lebanon, Camps' Profile, Rachidieh refugee camp, March 29, 2010 <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=141>

this time, is subjected to registration from the Lebanese Army. In 2009 the Lebanese Army worked on building a wall around the eastern side of Ain Al Hilweh camp, which increased the isolation of the camp from its surroundings.

24. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon who travelled abroad and succeeded to obtaining foreign nationality lose the privileges of residency in Lebanon and are treated as foreigners. They are obliged to obtain military permits for visiting family in the South Lebanon camps, significantly hampering their freedom of movement.
25. Restrictions on the freedom of movement put psychological pressure on the people living inside the camps. In times of tension and local feud in the camps, such restrictions endanger the life of the inhabitants of the camps.

#### **NAHR EL BARED CAMP**

26. Since the end of the war of the Lebanese Army against “Fateh Al Islam” Group in September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Nahr Al Bared camp in Northern Lebanon, the Lebanese Army strictly controls the entrance and exit of Palestinians to the camp, including to the *new camp* - area adjacent to the old camp area - where some refugees are still living, and to which other refugees were displaced from the *old camp* area.
27. Palestinian refugees inhabitants of the camp, or previous inhabitants of Nahr El Bared who were displaced, and any other Palestinian refugee including staff of humanitarian NGOs, need military permits to enter to the camp’s adjacent area. The Lebanese army procedure to deliver the permits is without guidelines or clear policy. Practically, the camp is isolated from the neighboring areas, family relations are interrupted and economic activity are hampered. This has frustrated first and foremost the inhabitants of the new camp area, and constrained their freedom of movement which has become dependent on the Lebanese army.



28. When arguing the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Lebanese authorities put forth fighting crime and fundamentalism growth inside the camps. The Lebanese logic is that of security and permanent emergency. But from our experience as NGOs working in the camps, such restrictions are not affecting the movement of those accused of crime. To the contrary, the spread of fundamentalism is benefiting from the frustration and marginalization of the Palestinian refugees communities, due in part to Lebanese authorities' restrictions and isolation policy.

**29. Our recommendations for the Lebanese Government is**

- a. To facilitate the entrance and exit of Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanon to all camps, as to respect the fundamental right to movement, including by ending the military treatment of camps and the military imposed restrictions, and removing fences around camps; and**
- b. To halt the military permit system for entrance to Nahr El Bared camp.**

**V. ARBITRARY DETENTION AND RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL**

30. During the war of the Lebanese Army against "Fateh Al Islam" Group in 2007, and accordingly after its end, hundreds of Palestinian refugees were subjected to arbitrary arrests and detention under the pretext of their belonging to Fateh Al Islam and other fundamentalist groups. The majority of the arrests took place without a proper judiciary order (most of them took place at Lebanese Army checkpoints). All detainees were 'interrogated' after their arrest and denied legal representation while in military custody. The majority of the arrested Palestinian refugees have been, since 2007, under arbitrary detention, without a fair trial. Others were trialed before the military court.

31. Several local and international human rights organizations documented cases<sup>12</sup> of arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and ill-treatment as well as two cases<sup>13</sup> of deaths during the detention period and investigation.
32. Under Lebanese law, Articles 425 of law no. 90/83, Lebanese citizens who cannot afford a lawyer are provided with one by the State. Also, Article 426 of the same law offers foreign nationals legal aid under the reciprocity principle. This means that Palestinians are excluded from the legal aid because they are not citizens of a recognized state that could have the same treatment for Lebanese. This makes Palestinian refugees unprotected by the law and more vulnerable to ill-treatment, torture, and violation in their basic rights before the law.
33. The arbitrary arrest and detention of human beings is a breach of article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Committed Torture and ill-treatment during the detention and investigation is a violation of article 7 and article 10 of the ICCPR and article 2 paragraph 2 and article 11 of the Convention against Torture (CAT). The status of keeping the detained Palestinian refugees without a fair trial, or delaying their trial, is a violation of article 14 of the ICCPR.

#### **34. Our recommendations for the Lebanese Government is**

---

<sup>12</sup> Torture in Lebanon: Time to break the pattern, report published in October 2009 by Al Karama Organization for Human Rights  
[http://en.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=140&Itemid=222](http://en.alkarama.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=140&Itemid=222)

<sup>13</sup> Conditions of Palestinian refugees detained in relation to Nahr Al Bared Camp incidents, report published in August 2007 by the Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO, [http://www.palhumanrights.org/Nahr\\_El-Bared/ENG/A%20Report%20on%20the%20Conditions%20of%20Palestinians%20Detained%20in%20Relation%20to%20Nahr%20El-Bared%20Camp%20Incidents-ENG.pdf](http://www.palhumanrights.org/Nahr_El-Bared/ENG/A%20Report%20on%20the%20Conditions%20of%20Palestinians%20Detained%20in%20Relation%20to%20Nahr%20El-Bared%20Camp%20Incidents-ENG.pdf)

- a. **Immediately release every detainee, not criminally involved, in compliance with the international legal precept that everyone 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; and**
- b. **Afford serious and immediate assistance in ensuring legal representation, regular family visits, health and medical care to all detainees; and**
- c. **Open immediate investigations to ascertain the circumstances that led to cases of death among Palestinian detainees and clarify 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**

## **VI. THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING**

35. After the destruction of Nahr El Bared camp in 2007, eleven<sup>14</sup> camps remain, where the estimated population of registered refugees in Lebanon is 422,188<sup>15</sup>, 53%<sup>16</sup> of them are living in the existing camps whose area in total does not exceed 11 km<sup>2</sup>. For instance, Ain Al Hilweh camp in Saida, the largest camp in

---

<sup>14</sup> Originally, in 1949, the number of the camps was 16. Three camps were destroyed during Lebanon's civil conflict (Nabatieh camp in south Lebanon, and Dikwaneh and Jisr el-Basha camps in the Beirut area). A fourth (Gouraud in Baalbek) was evacuated many years ago. The Fifth is Nahr El Bared Camp that was destroyed in 2007 during the clashes between the Lebanese Army and the "Fateh Al Islam" Group.

<sup>15</sup> UNRWA, Lebanon, facts and figures, March 29, 2010, <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=65>

<sup>16</sup> UNRWA, Lebanon, camp profiles, March 29, 2010, <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=73>

Lebanon, accommodates 47,500 Palestinian refugees in less than 1km<sup>2</sup> area, while the Lebanese national population density average<sup>17</sup> is 359 persons/ km<sup>2</sup>.

36. The size of the camps hasn't changed since their establishment in 1949, although four generations were born through the six decades of refuge. Consequently, housing in Palestinian refugee camps is compressed with no privacy, no outlook, narrow alleys, no places for children to play, no green spaces, a high percentage of humidity, non-entry of sun light and the impossibility for business to grow in the camp. Many families, still live in ribbed iron huts and no protection from extreme temperatures in winter or summer.

37. The Lebanese Army restricts the entry of building material, furniture and medical equipment to most camps in Lebanon, the restriction being thoroughly enforced around South Lebanon camps. Such procedures prevent Palestinian refugees from repairing or fixing their houses as well as from improving the camps' infrastructure. This has led to increasing deterioration of houses and infrastructure (electricity, water supply and sewage networks), and worsening the already overcrowded, unsanitary and squalid camps.

38. 31,000 Palestinian refugees lost their homes and means of living consequently to the 2007 Nahr El Bared conflict. They were displaced and remain in displacement in inadequate barracks housing in the adjacent area to the camp set up by the UNRWA. Some of them live in temporarily in rented houses in Nahr El Bared camp neighborhood, and others moved to other Palestinian camps. The alternative housing available to the community of displaced Palestinian refugees does not fulfill their right to decent housing.

---

<sup>17</sup> Lebanon, August, 19 2008, Centre de ressources sur le developpement local, March 29, 2010, <http://www.localiban.org/spip.php?rubrique42>

**39. Our recommendation for the Lebanese Government is**

- a. To develop clear policies that tackle the adequate housing standard for Palestinian refugees (population versus areas); and**
- b. To involve the municipalities around the camps in consolidating the infrastructure of the camps and linking it to that of the municipalities; and**
- c. To allow building material to enter the camps for the maintenance and reconstruction of houses, and to equally allow for furniture and medical equipments to enter; and**
- d. To compensate Nahr El Bared camp inhabitants for their displacement and the loss of their houses and economic activities, due to the war; and**
- e. Take all measures for accelerating the rebuilding of Nahr El Bared camp and facilitating the return of its inhabitants.**

**List of Researching, Drafting  
and Information Consolidation Committee**  
*- in Alphabetic Order -*

**Joint Christian Committee for Social Services**

**JCC**

P.O.Box: 113-5574 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel: 00961 1 741 735

Email: [jcc@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:jcc@cyberia.net.lb)

**Najdeh Association**

P.O.Box: 113/6099 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel: 00961 1 302 079

Fax: 00961 1 703 385

E-mail: [najdeh@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:najdeh@cyberia.net.lb)

[association@najdeh.org.lb](mailto:association@najdeh.org.lb)

[www.association-najdeh.org](http://www.association-najdeh.org)

**Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) – Lebanon**

P. O.Box:113-5719 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel:00961 1 305 836

Fax: 00961 1 702 342

Email: [npa@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:npa@cyberia.net.lb)

**Palestinian Cultural Club – Chatila Camp**

Tel:00961 71 384 102

Email: [m\\_halimeh@hotmail.com](mailto:m_halimeh@hotmail.com)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO**

P.O.Box: 114/5004 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel:00961 1 301 549

Fax: 00961 1 306 740

Email: [phro@palhumanrights.org](mailto:phro@palhumanrights.org)

[info@palhumanrights.org](mailto:info@palhumanrights.org)

[www.palhumanrights.org](http://www.palhumanrights.org)

**Right to Play International - Lebanon Office**

Tel : 00961 5 952 944

Email: [jhaidar@righttoplay.com](mailto:jhaidar@righttoplay.com)

**Shahed Association for Human Rights**

P.O.Box: 15-5390 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel:00961 1 308 013

Email: pahrw@pahrw.org

www.pahrw.org

**Women Programs Association**

**Ain El Hilweh Camp Center**

Tel: 00961 70 850 182

Email: wpc\_saida@hotmail.com

**List of Supporting NGOs  
in Alphabetic Order**

**Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)**

P.O.Box: 14/5792 Mazraa 1105 2070 Beirut-Lebanon  
Tel: 00961 1 319 366  
Fax: 00961 1 815 636  
Email: annd@annd.org  
www.annd.org

**Arab Resource Center for Popular Art ‘Al-Jana’**

P.O.Box: 114/5017 Beirut-Lebanon  
Tel: 00961 1 819 970  
Email: arcpa@cyberia.net.lb

**Ard Al-Tofoula Association**

Tel: 00961 7 752 015

**Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps ‘Inaash’**

Tel: 00961 1 740 609  
Fax: 00961 1 743057  
Email: inaash.a@cyberia.net.lb  
www.inaash.org

**Center for Refugee Rights ‘Aidoun’**

Tel: 00961 1 306769

**Child and Youth Center**

P.O.Box: 25/136 Beirut-Lebanon  
Email: adn1@cyberia.net.lb

**Developmental Action Without Borders ‘Nabaa’**

Tel: 00961 7 750 673  
Email: nabaa@terra.net.lb  
nabaa@nabaa-lb.org

**Fraternity Association for Social and Educational Work (FASEW)**

P.O.Box: 5506/14 Beirut-Lebanon  
Tel: 00961 1 755 441  
Email: fasew@live.com



**Frontiers Center**

P.O.Box: 13/6299 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel: 00961 1 735 854

Email: frontierscenter@cyberia.net.lb

**General Union of Palestinian Women**

**Lebanon Branch**

Email: gupw\_lb@hotmail.com

**Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation**

P.O.Box: 135/375 Chouran-Beirut

E- mail: gkcf@cyberia.net.lb

**Health Care Society**

Tel: 00961 1 308 006

Email: hcs@healthcaresociety.org

www.healthcaresociety.org

**Human Development Center**

P.O.Box: 14/6047 Beirut-Lebanon

Fax: 00961 1 312768

Email: hdc.humanrights@gmail.com

info@hd-center.net

**Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering**

P.O. Box: 14/5620 Beirut-Lebanon

Tel: 00961 1 370 189

Email: rdfi@inco.com.lb

**National Association for Social Medical Care & Vocational Training**

P.O.Box:14/5838 Bekaa

Tel: 00961 8 804101

00961 8 506815

**National Association for Vocational Training and Social services**

P.O.Box: 114/5008 Beirut - Lebanon

Tel:00961 1 317614

Email: navtss@yahoo.com

**National Institution for Social Care & Vocational Training**

P.O.Box: 135-621 Chouran - Beirut

Tel: 00961 1 859076/73

Fax: 00961 1 816115

E-mail : niscvt@socialcare.org.lb

**Palestinian Arab Women League**

P.O.Box: 13-5355 Chouran - Beirut

Tel: 00961 1 741 356

E-mail : paw156@hotmail.com

**Palestinian Disability Forum**

Tel: 00961 1 818 815

**Popular Aid for Relief and Development**

P. O. Box: 114/5149 Beirut

Tel: 00961 1855716

E- mail: pard\_b@cyberia.net.lb

**Social Communication Center 'Ajial'**

Tel:00961 3 365163

Email: ajialc@hotmail.com

**Thabit Organization for The Right of Return**

P.O.Box: 206 Tyr

Tele: 00961 1 303 644

E-Mail: info@thabit-lb.org

www.thabit-lb.org

**Women Humanitarian Organization**

Tel: 00961 3 963 227

Email: palwho@gmail.com

“Lebanon is Arab in its identity and its association. It is a founding an active member of the League of Arab States and abides by its pacts and covenants. Lebanon is also a founding and active member of the United Nations Organizations and abides by its covenants and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government shall embody these principles in all fields and areas without exception.”

*Paragraph B, Preamble Lebanese Constitution*

“In the case of a conflict between national and international law, the latter shall prevail”

*Article 2 of the code of civil Proceedings*

“... recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world ....

... it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law ...”

*Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights - UDHR*

**Mar Elias Camp, Beirut - Unesco**  
**PO.Box: 114/5004, Beirut - Lebanon**  
**Tel/Fax: +961-306 740 / 301 549**  
*[phro@palhumanrights.org](mailto:phro@palhumanrights.org)*  
*[www.palhumanrights.org](http://www.palhumanrights.org)*

