

## Human rights report on the situation of the refugees from Syria in the Beqaa –Lebanon

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### Introduction:

We have nominated a Syrian observer (rapporteur) in Lebanon to study the human rights situation of the refugees from Syria in the Beqaa in Lebanon, supported by the Arab Human Rights Fund [www.ahrfund.org](http://www.ahrfund.org) as a one year project. The number of refugees from Syria is estimated to be 400 thousand people according to United Nations statistics, the focus in this report is on Saad Naiel in Middle Beqaa.



### The situation of camps:

198 tents from 6 different camps were observed (almost 1400 refugees).

People are complaining about the behavior of the teachers in school (B), where children are treated violently, beaten and punished which caused them to hate education and hate going to school.

One of international organizations is forcing children to read religious hymns, forbidding them from mentioning anything related to their religions and punishing them severely if they were to do so. In addition, it imposes on the parents to attend proselytizing religious workshops in exchange for food relief materials.

In camp (S), the landowner forces the refugees from Syria to work for him, giving them only 6000 L.L per day, which is about the quarter of a regular wage in the area, and whomever refuses to work is thrown out from camp. This includes all inhabitants: men, women, and even children.

There is a slaughterhouse near camp (W), it disposes of its soiled water and blood in an open sewer going through the camp. It caused an enormous proliferation of rats and insects which leads to the spread of dangerous illnesses. Although a complaint about this situation was filed with the local Lebanese municipality, yet no one as of yet has responded to the camp's inhabitants.

### Violations:

- 1- A camp was raided looking for motorcyclists by people who did not show any legal badges at ten A.M. Ahmad was asleep when he was dragged outside wearing only shorts, his hand were tied and a bag put on his head. The mother tried to interfere and talk to them but it was useless. He was transported to a Lebanese

security center where he was undressed in front of others, then moved to another room and beaten up. Ahmad got burned on the leg as he was asked to confess that he belongs to the Islamic State formation (ISIL), and he got several hard hits on the back. In the evening, he was transported to a police station along with others and was interrogated for 2 days without any treatment or medications for his burns or back injury. He stayed in this situation for 2 days then he was released.

- 2- Camp (K) was encircled and raided by unknown people who did not show any legal papers and did not explain the reason for entering the camp. They hit and assaulted lots of refugees and took 14 people between the ages of 22-39, all of whom had legal papers and were staying legally in Lebanon. The refugees were treated offensively with bags covering their heads and their hands tied up. They got hit and assaulted all day long, then they were released in the evening without any interrogation.

The following is a testimony from women witnesses about what happened during the raid:

“When I heard the noise outside, I made my son take off. I was worried that he might get arrested because he did not have legal stay papers. He is 16 years old. He does not have the papers because he came from Syria at the age of 12”. (R) goes on to explain how she got her son out through a slit in the tent so he would hide in the outhouse. Suddenly someone breaks the door, enters the tent and starts to look for young men. He woke everybody up but did not find anyone to arrest so he left. When the observer’s team met (R) and her 5 years old daughter, the child was still crying of fear and shock and was afraid of anyone coming near her.

**Recommendations:**

**To the Lebanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Townships:**

To supervise the parties that raid the Syrian refugee camps without any legal arrest warrants, and follow-up on the reported human rights violations of the refugees from Syria taking place in the Beqaa.

**To the Lebanese Ministry of Education:**

To supervise the schools of local, international and regional organizations to decrease the violence on the students in them and to stop using children to spread religious proselytism and other thoughts.

(This project is supported by the Arab Human Rights Fund [www.ahrfund.org](http://www.ahrfund.org) . The opinions and viewpoints in this report do not necessary reflect the official policy of the Arab Human Rights Fund or its positions).