

Human Rights Report about the Situation of Syrian refugees in Beqah 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 as a one year project. The number of refugees from Syria in Lebanon is estimated to be 400 thousand people according to United Nations statistics. The focus in this report is on Ghazze and Mansoura in Western Beqaa.

The situation of camps:

156 tents in 9 different camps (almost 700 refugees) including 356 children were observed.

In camp (K-A), 150 children are forced to refrain from going to school and to work in agricultural lands owned by the camp's owner with their relatives, and whomever refuses to work is evicted from the camp.

Sergeant (A-A), threw the observer's team out and threatened them with his authority and contacts. The team was able to contact a refugee in the camp, who told them that the sergeant exploits his relations and contacts to embezzle and sell most of the camp's food aid. A shop owner in the neighborhood conformed this statement.

Refugees are forced to pay triple the amount of their private electric bill. Electricity is cut-off on those who refuse to pay this extra amount.

In an official public school, Syrian refugee children were subjected to beatings and humiliation because they are Syrians. The school's administration refused to meet with their parents and it also expelled a child, in order to frighten them so that no other parents report their issues or complain about what goes on in school. What raises the parents fears are threats of children's abduction, especially that the school is 500 meters away from the camp and Syrian children are assigned in afternoon classes only.

Children who came from Syria at the age of 10-14 are now over 17, and are being harassed because they do not have legal personal papers and are unable to adjust their situation to be legally residing in Lebanon.

Out of 700 people, we found 55 in critical health conditions, requiring emergency medical intervention. Due to the bureaucracy of the United Nations, not all refugees are able to register, so it is hard for them to get medical services. Refugees accused the medical organizations of

exploiting them by photographing them and taking their papers, then disappearing without ever coming back with help.

In hospital (H-F) which has a contract with the United Nations, they receive registered refugees, write down their numbers, examine them then throw them out without giving them any prescriptions, and anyone who refuses to leave gets beaten and humiliated.

On Resettlement of Syrian refugees versus their return to their home country issue:

The most important reason of violations against refugees from Syria in Lebanon is the resettlement issue, which the Lebanese community fears greatly. So the observer held some sessions with the refugees from Syria on the matter and indicated the following:

Out of 700 refugees, only four do not want to go back to Syria. Most children, especially those who grew up in Lebanon, refuse the idea of staying there and want to go back to Syria.

the most important concerns that the refugees have about going back to Syria are:

- 1- That no security forces, military or religious brigades pursues nor prosecute them.
- 2- That there be a stop to all aggressive acts, and a guarantee of their safety and that of their family.
- 3- That ISIL, Jabhat alNosra, and all other fighters are kicked out from their regions.

A lot of them said that they will be satisfied with a tent over the remains of their houses, the issue of their resettlement outside Syria was refused by all of them.



Violations:

1- Camp (K-A): the camp was raided at 7 AM. They entered the camp without permission. Young men were dragged to the camp's square, 30 people from different ages were gathered, their hands tied in their back, bags were put over their heads, then they were forced to lay on their stomach on the pebbles, facing the ground. Soldiers started to step on their back saying " this is the destiny of every ISIL member ". (M) says " I lifted my head and screamed at the soldier who was hitting me, and told him that this is exactly what ISIL is doing! So he stepped on my head until I reached the ground ". After that they were put in a car and moved to (J-B) area where they finger-stamped some papers with their eyes folded. Then they were immediately moved somewhere else. (M) says "We were undressed, put in cells wearing only our underwear. Each one of us was beaten by 2 people, and screaming filled the place until most people fainted ". They were left until the next day without food or drinks. Then they were given spoiled food and every one had to eat it or they will get beaten. They stayed for 2 days then they were moved to Shtoura and released, everyone was injured in broken ribs and cuts on their face and body.

Recommendations:

- 1- To organizations and international associations which work in health care:** intervene and work on healing all critical health condition cases requiring emergency medical intervention in the camps, especially the war injuries.
- 2- To the Lebanese Health Ministry:** put all hospitals that work with the United Nations under your supervision to stop the exploitation of Syria's refugees.
- 3- Stop the violence and the beating in the schools, hospitals, police stations, and arrest centers.**

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