

Universal Periodic Review of Lebanon

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**Joint NGO Submission: Human Rights Violations Perpetrated Against
Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon**

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Introduction:

Between 260, 000 and 280, 000 Palestinian Refugees reside in 12 camps and 42 gathering in Lebanon (Chaaban survey 2010), 90 % of Palestinian have been born in Lebanon. The greatest majority live in a harsh conditions with high poverty, inadequate infrastructure and housing, limited access to quality services and social protection, in addition to being subjected to discriminatory laws and regulations.



The Legal Status of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Palestinians are classified as foreigners by the Lebanese laws and procedures— despite the fact that many were born in Lebanon and have lived there for more than sixty years, and till now there is no accurate definition for them, and due to that, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are divided into a variety of groups. Such division produced a profound effect on the social, economic and legal conditions of each category of the underneath three categories:

- **REGISTERED REFUGEES (RR)**, registered by both UNRWA and the Lebanese authorities,
- **None REGISTERED REFUGEES (NR)**: only registered by the Lebanese Authorities.
- **And the NON-IDs**: not registered at all, neither by UNRWA, nor by Lebanese Authorities

The Non IDs: currently there are more than 5000 non-ids, deprived from their basic human rights (health, education, movement and work..) even they can't register their marriages, or their children (even if one partner is a non – id).

 **The Lebanese government must clearly define the legal status of Palestinian Refugees, guaranteeing them their civil and socio-economic rights.**

 **The Lebanese government must issue a sustainable official identification documents to Non-IDs.**

 **The Lebanese government must treat all PR in equality without discrimination with non registered and registered.**

Freedom of movement, travel and residence

Palestinian camps and gathering are isolated from their surroundings by barb wires and military checkpoints (Beirut, North, and Saidoon). Also they need to register their entry and exit from-to the camp.

→ Hinder the right of movement of PR living in the camps.

→ Wait for long time at check points.

→ hindering their reaching to their work, schools or universities on time,

→ impose them to risk during internal military tensions or clashes.

→ **The Lebanese Government must put new security measures based on a human right approach.**



Discrimination between Lebanese passports and PR travel documents

PR travel documents are not machine-readable nor compatible with the international standards and not recognized by most countries, granted for 3 years only (it was 5) for registered PR and one year non registered.

→ easy to be forged

→ difficulties in getting visas

→ no long term visa for non-registered (affected them negatively in live, work or study outside Lebanon).

 **Lebanese Government must issue a machine – readable, compliance travel documents for all PR.**

Right to work

Palestinian labour force in Lebanon, facts and figures

	Palestinian	Lebanese
National work force	75,000	1200,000
In daily, weekly or season jobs	31%	10%
Below poverty line	66%	29%
Earn below minimum wage	75%	9%
No health insurance	95%	48%
Average monthly wage	\$350-369\$	\$441-458\$
Have work permits	2%	

Right to Work Violations

- Palestinian are deprived from working in liberal professions (require syndicate affiliation due to legal regulations)
- In August 2010, the Lebanese parliament amend article 59 of the labour law and article 9 of the social security law
- The amendment waived the fees to obtain work permit and revoked the reciprocity treatment policy
- Concerned some social security service (end of service compensation and work related injuries)

Advantages and disadvantages of the amendment

Advantages	disadvantages
Important step in the right direction	The amendment did not reflect itself in the syndicates
Lebanese government raising the issue of the PR within their documents	PR continue to be deprived of syndicate affiliation and prevented from practicing the liberal professions
Significant political shift as regards the employment rights of Palestinian in Lebanon.	still deprives PR workers from all social security services (health coverage and maternity benefits that effect negatively on working PR women)
	No council of minister amendment decision (the implementation of the laws remains subjected to labor of ministers decisions).
	Palestinian workers pay 23.5% of the value salary to NSSF and benefit from 8.5% of the paid value

Recommendations

- ➡ Lebanese government must improve the working situation and conditions of PR (recommendation 84 (10) UPR 2010)
- ➡ Terminating the working permits and granting PR the right to practice the Liberal Professions
- ➡ Amend laws and by-laws that regulate syndicate professions to be in harmony with labour law (abolition of reciprocity treatment and practicing conditions)
- ➡ Allow PR to enjoy their full rights in social security
- ➡ Issue a council of minister decrees to ensure the implementation of laws

Right to Own Property

- Law 296/2001 deprives PR from owning property, because they don't have a recognized nationality.
- PR who owned property before 2001 amendment but did not register their properties, become unable to register at the registry directorate, as the surveyed sale contracts have a limited duration of 10 years.
- PR inheritors are being obstructed by Lebanese registry directorate and Real Estate (inherited real estates done through the religious courts)
- Affected PR resort to judicial measures (since 2014 the Lebanese notary has rejected such cases.
- Foreigners who are married to PR women can't register their property too (they consider the family as a unit)

Recommendations

- ➡ Lebanese government must amend the law 296/2001 to allow Palestinian refugees to own property
- ➡ Lebanese government must stop its arbitrary actions that prevent PR who purchased before the amendment of law, to register their properties
- ➡ Lebanese government must remove the barriers of transferring the inherited real estate
- ➡ End the time limitation for surveyed sale contracts.
- ➡ Stop discriminatory actions that hinder foreigners married to PR women to own property.

Adequate housing and shelter



- PR camps suffer from poor housing conditions
- Overpopulation and overcrowding, camps areas have not been expanded since 1950, and it is vertically expanding
- Poorly ventilated houses and Narrow alleys
- Non existence of green areas
- Inadequate infrastructure (drinking water are often contaminated by sewage)

Results:

- Un healthy environment, high levels of humidity indoors
- Spread of diseases
- Social problems
- Violation of family privacy

→ The Lebanese Government must develop a plan to fulfill the right of PR to adequate housing inside the camps

→ Improve the environment of Palestinian camps and gathering in Lebanon.

Restrictions on entering construction materials and sanitation supplies to the camps

- Lebanese gov. deals with PR as a security concern
- Preventing the entry of construction materials without Army permission.
- Lack of support from neighboring municipalities in delivering water and electricity

→ Prevent PR from repairing their houses (that are in danger of collapsing) and to improve their camps (infrastructure and sewage system)


→ **LG must end restrictions on entry of construction materials to PR camps to enable PR repairing their houses and infrastructure.**



Complete the construction of Naher Al Bared camp



- Naher Al Bared Camp destroyed in 2007, leads to displacement of 4867 PR families
- 1321 residents shelters have been constructed
- Most resident still live in temporary containers homes where they express freezing in winter and high temp. in summer

 **LG must accelerate its effort in reconstructing Nahr Al Bared camp and ensure the return of all camp residents.**

Right to health

- Lebanese gov. deprives PR from accessing services provided by the ministry of Public Health (free hospitalization, provision of chronic medication and emergency health care)
- Lebanese gov. discriminate between PR Lebanese persons with disabilities:
 - Depriving PWD from the "disabled personal card."
 - Deprivation of the PWD such as people with physical disability to benefit from the presentations and physical therapy centers

 **The Lebanese gov. must allow PR to enjoy free health services and hospitalization provided by ministry of public health**

 **The Lebanese government has to enforce law 220/2000 and ensure that the Palestinian person with disability has the right to enjoy the rights and privileges granted to him by law 220/2000.**

 **The Lebanese government has to issue a "disabled personal card" for the disabled Palestinian refugee as enforcement of the law 220/2000.**

Granting our rights means Granting our
Dignity

Thank you to your concern

Malvina abou ardini