



Humanitarian Statement

Dozens of Migrants Drowned in Death Boats

The tragic incident that claimed the lives of dozens of innocent refugees, including children and women, who drowned off the Syrian coast, has caused a great uproar that preoccupied public opinion, which was shocked by the enormity of this event.

On the morning of September 23, Arab and world media circulated news on the sinking of a boat carrying about 150 migrants from the Lebanese coast to the point of its sinking off the shores of the Syrian coastal city of Tartus. So far, the accident has claimed 103 innocent lives. Meanwhile, the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, especially Nahr al-Bared (35 victims) and Shatila (4 victims), are witnessing a state of intense rage and frustration, as dozens of camp residents took to the street amid shooting in the air, expressing feelings of sadness and anger at the loss of their kith and kin.

The Jafra Foundation, as it expresses its sincere condolences to all those who have lost their loved ones in this traumatic event, stresses that the aggravation of the political-economic-social crisis that made the lives of thousands of vulnerable population, especially refugees, a living hell, with the official authorities and the international community ignoring their suffering that exceeded all limits, was the reason for the despair which the victims arrived, so they decided to risk their lives and the lives of their families by migrating by sea in the hope of obtaining another life where their most basic rights to safety and living in dignity as human beings is guaranteed.

Consequently the Foundation calls upon all stakeholders, especially the international community, represented by the United Nations and the European Union, to assume their responsibilities towards the most vulnerable and affected groups who have been forced by the severe political and economic conditions to choose either staying and dying of starvation, poverty and disease, or risking their lives in an exodus to the unknown.

In this regard, we reaffirm that the suffering of thousands of families is not due to a natural disaster or an accidental environmental event, but rather as a result of international policies that do not value human rights nor adhere to the international humanitarian covenants and charters. As it is no secret the international community's political role of in the plight of the Palestinian people that has been going on for more than seventy years. The same can be said on the war that has devastated every single aspect of the lives of hundreds of thousands of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples. As in both, the parties fought on behalf of external regional and international forces, caused mass destruction of both countries and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, as well as the displacement of millions.

Since this catastrophe is not the first, but was preceded by dozens of accidents in which hundreds of migrants lost their lives on their trip by sea and land, it will not be the last unless serious stances are taken by the stakeholders to handle the root causes of the suffering of the affected population by guaranteeing all their rights as human beings.

Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development

Beirut 09/26/2022

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