



Statement issued by the Palestinian Institutions Network (Shabaka) - Lebanon

Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon are experiencing various acute crises. Living, security, and social conditions are deteriorating, especially with the political, security, and economic developments taking place in the region (the economic collapse in Lebanon, the war on Gaza, the war on Lebanon, the UNRWA crisis, and others). Over time, these crises have transformed into chronic crises, with declining services and unprecedented poverty and unemployment rates.

The absence of a unified official representative authority that speaks up for the interests and rights of the Palestinian people has created a vacuum, deepening the refugee crisis. This was clearly evident during the recent period when the issue of Palestinian weapons in Lebanon was raised.

UNRWA has also suffered for years from funding cuts by donor countries for political reasons, threatening the continuation of its operations in providing basic services, including education, health, relief, infrastructure services, and others, to millions of refugees.

The serious repercussions of cutting funding to UNRWA are not limited to depriving hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees of the basic services necessary for survival, but also entail ending the existence of a UN body that has witnessed for decades the Nakba (catastrophe) of the Palestinian people, their uprooting from their land, and the denial of their rights enshrined in international treaties.

Therefore, we, the Palestinian Institutions Network (Shabaka) in Lebanon:

1. Call on all concerned parties to peaceful settlement of disputes, prioritize the public interest, and form a national authority that includes all components to represent the interests and aspirations of the Palestinian people.
2. Call on the relevant parties to address the issue of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon from a human rights perspective, not a security perspective. This includes proposing a comprehensive vision to grant Palestinians their legitimate rights as refugees, as stipulated in relevant international agreements and UN resolutions. This can be achieved by establishing a policy based on recognizing their civil, social, and political rights, and repealing all inhumane and unfair decisions and laws that conflict with Lebanon's position in support of the Palestinian cause, supporting the Palestinian people's right to resist and regain their usurped rights, and rejecting resettlement schemes based on supporting the right of return to their land and homes in occupied Palestine.

3. We call on the international community to uphold its responsibilities towards UNRWA as an international witness to the Nakba of the Palestinian people. We call on the international community to preserve its institutions so that it can continue to provide its programs and services and carry out its duties until the implementation of UN Resolution 194, which stipulates the return of Palestinian refugees to their cities and villages and compensation for the damages they have suffered.

In conclusion, we call on all sectors of our people, its political and social forces, and all bodies and frameworks supporting the Palestinian cause to approach this stage with the utmost seriousness, unify action, utilize all capabilities and energies, and coordinate at all levels to serve the interests of our people wherever they are and to confront the challenges imposed by the nature of this stage.

Names of the undersigned foundations:
Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development
In Burj al-Barajneh Camp:
- Women's Charitable Association
- Megiddo and Galilee Club

In Shatila Camp:
- Majd al-Krum People's Association
- Ajyal - Social Communication Center
- Palestine Youth Club
- Al-Shifa Association for Medical and Humanitarian Services
- Al-Sama Center
- Oxygen Center
- Bilasan Theater
- Palestinian Fire Brigade - Shatila Camp

In Ein al-Hilweh Camp:
- Al-Takaful Social Charitable Association
- Al-Sabil Charitable Association

From Baddawi Camp:
- YALA Nghayer
- Community Rehabilitation Association (CBRA)
- Al-Saada Association
- Nuwat Association - Social Solidarity Center - with reservations regarding the second paragraph of the introduction

In Nahr al-Bared Camp:
- Palestinian Fire Brigade - Nahr al-Bared Camp
- Ma'an Initiative
- Tiger Academy
- Jusoor Center
- Akkar Dynamo

In Burj al-Shamali Camp:
- Al-Houla Association
- Palestinian Fire Brigade - Burj al-Shamali Camp

