

## Human Rights Report about the Situation of Syrian refugees in Beqaa Lebanon

2016/6/18

May 2016

### Introduction:

The Syrian Observer (rapporteur) in Lebanon monitors the human rights situation of the refugees from Syria in the Beqaa region, 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 in Beqaa is estimated to be 400 thousand people according to the United Nations. The focus in this report is on Jeb Jenen, Al kheiara, and Dakwa in western Beqaa.



### **Situation of camps:**

**300 refugees in six camps were targeted in this report.**

**Employers are taking advantage of people and their lack of knowledge of legal parties who can help them. They are paying very low wages, well below what is normal for the work done; many male and female workers have been fired without getting their salaries and were threatened by security services because they did not have permits to stay in Lebanon.**

**As is the situation in of all camps studied, people were rarely able to obtain marriage licenses and official birth certificates.**

**Raids, beating, insulting, and arrests without warrants continue. These activities are spreading fear and anxiety in most camps.**

**Some municipalities are imposing curfews on Syrians on specific times and occasions.**

**General Security must give approval for refugees to build or change the location of tents; approval which often takes months and is most times withheld without any reasons given. The situation is particularly concerning in the summer, when refugees in camps close to rubbish dumps, which cause illnesses as the temperature increases, causing waste to rot, are obliged to move if they want to avoid falling ill.**

### **Issue of settlement and return of Syrian refugees:**

**Out of 300 refugees:**

- **203 people over the age of 18 want to come back to Syria**
- **8 people over the age of 18 don't want to come back to Syria**
- **87 children want to come back to Syria**
- **2 children don't want to come back to Syria**

**All 300 refugees refused the idea of settlement that is being discussed in Lebanon between some parties, and think of it as a way to use them, insult them, and is motivated by grudges against them.**

### **Violations:**

**Security raided the camp at dawn, broke all doors that people were late to open, and dragged 20 people to the camps' yard while beating and verbally insulting them. These people were taken to a security office where there were about 70 people from other**

**camps, some of whom were elderly. Those detained were hit and photographed in shameful positions.**

**The security services called those detained " ISIL", "terrorists", and other similar words. They were forced to admit having arms and being sponsored from people outside Lebanon, in spite of the fact that the security services did not find any weapons during this raid or any other raid. Indeed, a witness said that "we run away from weapons and those who carry them".**

**Arrestees stayed in that location for a day without food or water, and were then moved to a place they did not recognize where interrogations continued. Later, they were taken back to Shtoura and released.**

**Recommendations:**

- 1- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Municipalities: protect refugees from the exploitation of land owners and employers, and consider the complaints given to town ships and police stations so those exploiting refugees can be stopped.**
- 2- Any security party entering camps must give its name and the reason of its appearance, must provide warrants, and announce where they detain refugees. They must commit to the specified time of arrest and abstain from hitting, insulting and cursing arrestees.**
- 3- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Municipalities must work to equip camps with sufficient health equipment and medical supplies in order to prevent diseases.**

**(This project is supported by the [Arab Human Rights Fund](http://www.ahrfund.org) (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 position**