

Human Rights Report on the Situation of Syrian Refugees in Beqaa, Lebanon

18/7/2016

June 2016

Introduction:

The Syrian Observer in Lebanon monitors the human rights situation for Syrian refugees in Beqaa, Lebanon, supported by the [Arab Human rights fund](#) as a one year project. The number of refugees in Beqaa is estimated to be 400,000 by the United Nations. The focus in this report is on Qeb Elias in western Beqaa



Situation of camps:

204 refugees were targeted in fifteen camps. The main issues that arose were:

- There are not enough free schools for all the children in the camps, and parents cannot afford to send their children to private schools.
- The issue of water is particularly severe. Most camps in the summer need increased amounts of drinking water, responsible organizations are providing this, but not in a sufficient amount. This is forcing refugees to buy additional water, which has caused vendors to take advantage of the situation by raising the price of water to unreasonable levels, which refugees have no choice but to accept.
- The camps also have the issue of sewage running between tents, which causes a horrible smell and attracts insects, as well as leading to the spread of many illnesses.
- Ill will and grudges against the indigenous population are growing amongst refugees, especially among children and young people in areas where refugees and Lebanese people live close together. These feelings are caused in large part by the extremely poor treatment of young refugees by security services, who beat and humiliate them during raids. This is a dangerous situation with the potential to lead to conflict.
- Most young men in these camps lack papers to stay legally in the country, so their mobility is very restricted, they cannot work, and they fear arrest.
- In the camps monitored, only three organizations are assisting refugees. These organisations are unable to provide for all the essential needs of the residents.
- Municipalities are ignoring all complaints from the refugees about the sewage situation.
- Landlords are continuing to exploit refugees by raising the rent of land to extortionate levels, and charging extremely high electricity bills.

The issue of settlement and refugee's return to their country:

Out of 204 refugees:

- 114 people above the age of 18 want to go back to Syria
- 4 people above the age of 18 do not want to go back to Syria
- 86 children want to go back to Syria
- 0 children do not want to go back to Syria

204 people refused the settlement idea that some parties in Lebanon are discussing.

Overall, they considered it to be a new way to exploit and humiliate them, and that the idea is fuelled by hatred for refugees.

Recommendations:

- 1- Improve the situation of camps by providing essential healthcare equipment.
- 2- UNICEF: work with concerned parties to provide education centers and schools
- 3- UNDP (United Nations Development Project): support projects to build sewage systems and provide refugees with drinking water.

(This project is supported by the [Arab Human Rights Fund](#). The positions and viewpoints in this report do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Arab Human Rights Fund).