



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

United Nations Human Rights Council: 16th Session
Oral Intervention: Item 6 – UPR – Lebanon
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Delivered by: Rola Badran

Thank you Mr. President,

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) in cooperation with the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) welcomes Lebanon's acceptance of UPR recommendations to improve working possibilities and conditions of Palestinian refugees, as well as to strengthen efforts to assist Non-Identified Palestinian refugees. However, we are concerned that such commitments have not been accompanied by a clear plan of action and concrete implementation. We urge Lebanon to allow Palestinian refugees to freely practice all liberal professions regulated by syndicates, and to fully resolve the Non-IDs dilemma by immediately issuing personal identification documents, in a sustainable and definite manner.

We acknowledge the challenges Lebanon faces due to foreign occupation of parts of its territory, and the lack of a just and durable solution for Palestinian refugees. However, we regret that this is commonly used to justify depriving Palestinian refugees of their fundamental human rights. This treatment contradicts with the Lebanese constitution and the international human rights instruments mentioned in the constitution's preamble.

Continuous disregard of the right to freedom of movement, accompanied by various levels of military interference, have lead to the long-term neglect, exclusion, and marginalization of Palestinian refugees. Particularly for Naher El Bared Camp, participating in wedding ceremonies, funerals or social activities, including social family visits, is treated as a matter for military intelligence control.

Another level of discrimination is related to property rights. The Law on Property Ownership was amended in 2001 and now excludes solely Palestinians from the right to own property. Even previously owned property cannot legally be passed on to decedents.

We regret that Lebanon, during the review, and during this adoption, did not show willingness to further improve the conditions of Palestinian refugees in these crucial areas, and we regret that most substantive recommendations made on these issues were rejected. Unresolved discrimination in these areas constitutes serious infringements of human rights.

The Lebanese Government has a clear obligation to ensure all individuals, including Palestinians, residing within its territory, are afforded full equality and guaranteed their rights.

Thank you Mr. President.