



National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training
Beit Atfal al-Sumud – Lebanon



Habitat International Coalition
Housing and Land Rights Network

Institutionalized Discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon

*Report submitted to the United Nations
Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
Discrimination*

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Beit Atfal al-Sumud, literally meaning the House of Steadfast Children, was instituted in 1976 initially to provide a home for orphaned children from Tel al-Za'atar (embattled district of Beirut whose Palestinian community was physically destroyed). However, the numbers of affected children have swelled dramatically with new disasters. Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the massacres at Sabra and Shatila brought more families and 1,300 children in need of services. Since then, Beit Atfal al-Sumud has developed a new system of care for at-risk children: children remain with their mothers or relatives, and the institution's family-oriented services are geared to ensure, as much as possible, a healthy environment. Since 1994, Beit Atfal al-Sumud has concentrated on community development to help all children in the refugee camps of Lebanon, organizing various youth activities such as sports, scouting and summer camps.

The organization, registered in Lebanon under the name **National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training**, operates eight kindergartens for 600 children and provides cost-free dental care in clinics near camps. A Family Guidance project gives counseling and tutoring services, and NISCVT offers six-month vocational training courses in construction skills. The NGO also began computer courses in Burj al-Shemali Camp. The trainees established internet relations with Dheisheh Camp, in Bethlehem, through the AcrossBorders project.

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is an independent, international, nonprofit movement of some 400 organizations and individuals working in the area of human settlements. Members include NGOs, CBOs, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations and like-minded individuals from 80 countries in both North and South. A shared set of objectives bind and shape HIC's commitment to communities working to secure housing and improve their habitat conditions.

HIC and its **Housing and Land Rights Network** (dedicated to developing the human rights dimension and standards of human settlements) work at local, national, regional and international levels through ever-emerging strategies and activities to:

- Recognize, defend and fully implement everyone's right everywhere to a secure place to live in peace and dignity;
- Develop legal protection of the human right to housing is a first step to support the efforts of communities producing housing;
- Contribute to the work of UN human rights bodies in defining the right to housing, as well as states' obligations to respect, protect, promote and fulfill it;
- Defend the human rights of the homeless, poor and inadequately housed;
- Promote public awareness about human settlement problems, as well as potential solutions;
- Serves as a platform for formulating NGO policies and strategies in the field of human settlements, and
- Advocate on members' behalf in international organizations and forums.



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Preface

The following report by the National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVD), entitled “Discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon,” is to be read in parallel with the report of the Government of Lebanon (CERD/C/383.Add.3) to the UN Committee of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, reviewed at the Committee’s 64th session (Geneva, February–March 2004). This report is based on the following purposes and premises:

1. The initiation of a constructive dialogue avoids useless discord with Lebanese authorities. Moving toward eliminating all forms of discrimination in Lebanon, requires the full commitment of Lebanese policy makers in respecting human rights and cooperating with local civil society, on one hand, and the international community, on the other.
2. Palestinian refugees have the right to return to their homeland, based on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 (A/RES/194 III, 11 December 1948), which Lebanon also upholds. Emphasizing paragraph 11 of resolution 194 here is essential: “the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible.”
3. Palestinians are entitled to the fundamental human rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the United Nations international covenants and conventions regardless of the social, economic or political circumstances in their current place of residence.



Background information

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Lebanon participated in drafting, was created while the Palestinians became refugees in Lebanon.

The fundamental purpose of all adopted human rights covenants and declarations is to protect the weak from abuse and to set minimum standards of rights that States guarantee for individuals and groups wherever they currently reside within the State's jurisdiction or effective control.

Israeli-sponsored population transfer forced Palestinians to leave their homeland in the period leading to, during and following 1948. The largest proportion of fleeing Palestinians took refuge in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees have been living in Lebanon for over fifty years, during which, they have experienced civil war, economic, social and political marginalization, and exclusion from Lebanese society. The consequences of discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon profoundly effects their general living conditions.

Following the 1948 occupation of Palestine, the UN General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in resolution 302 (IV), of 8 December 1949 to deliver relief and works programs for Palestine refugees.

The number of Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Lebanon is currently 391,679, or an estimated 10 % of the population of Lebanon. However, these figures include principally those Palestinian refugees (and their families) originally registered with UNRWA. Many others have emigrated, have been killed during the civil war, live unregistered in camps, or resided in cities at the time of UNRWA's initial registration.

| Country | Official Camps | Registered Refugees | Registered in Camps |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Jordan | 10 | 1,718,767 | 304,430 |
| Lebanon | 12 | 391,679 | 225,125 |
| Syria | 10 | 409,662 | 119,766 |
| West Bank | 19 | 654,971 | 176,514 |
| Gaza Strip | 08 | 907,221 | 478,854 |
| Total | 59 | 4,082,300 | 1,301,689 |

UNRWA Figures as of 30 June 2003

The services of UNRWA have declined dramatically since its establishment. In 1951, UNRWA issued US\$200 worth of services to each refugee per month. Today it provides the equivalent of only US\$7 per month, whereas the number of refugees has considerably mounted and is continually on the rise.

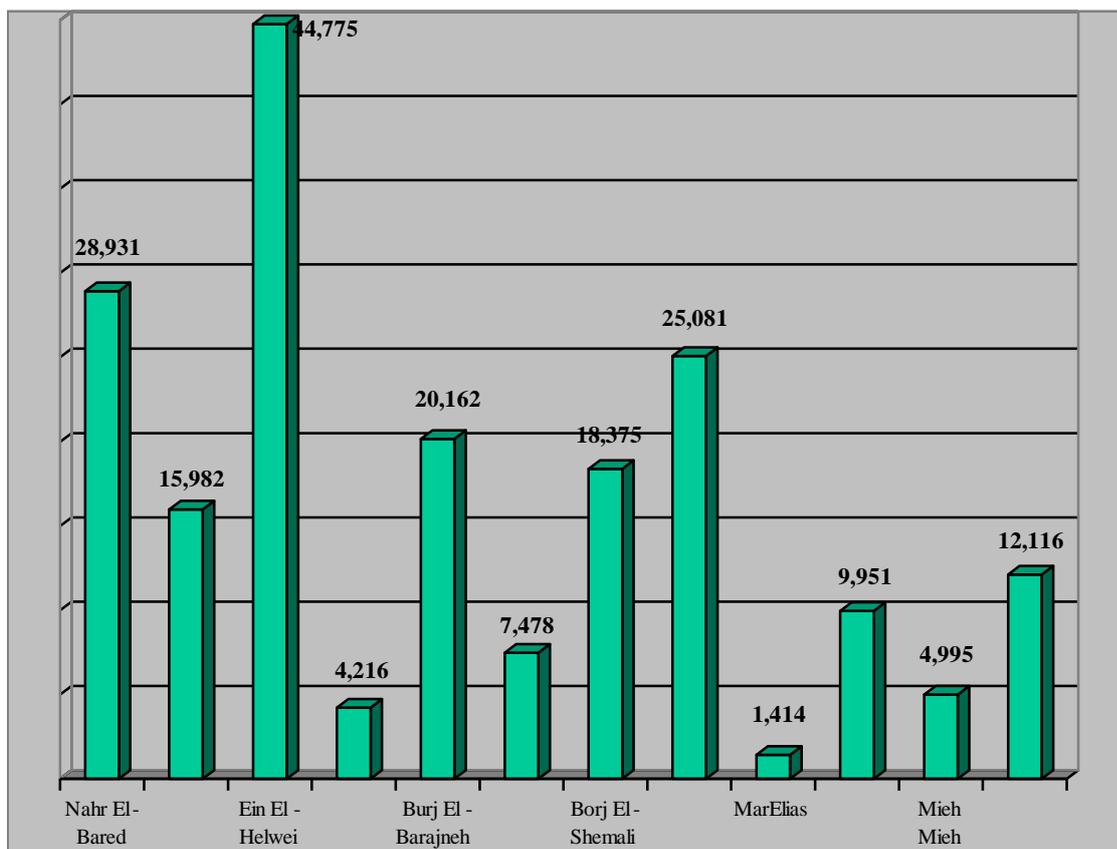
Today, all twelve official refugee camps in Lebanon suffer from wholly inadequate infrastructure, overcrowding, poverty and unemployment. After more than 50 years living as refugees, the Palestinians in Lebanon are economically marginalized and the majority live in squalid conditions.



According to UNRWA, Lebanon has the highest percentage of Palestinian refugees who live in “abject poverty.”



| Camp | Registered refugees |
|---|---------------------|
| Ein el-Hilweh | 44,775 |
| Nahr el-Bared | 28,931 |
| Rashidieh | 25,081 |
| Burj el-Barajneh | 20,162 |
| Burj el-Shemali | 18,375 |
| Beddawi | 15,982 |
| Shatila | 12,116 |
| El-Buss | 9,951 |
| Wavel | 7,478 |
| Mieh Mieh | 4,995 |
| Dbayeh | 4,216 |
| Mar Elias | 1,414 |
| Dikwaneh & Nabatieh (destroyed) | 15,838 |
| + 10,946 refugees distributed throughout the camps. | |
| UNRWA figures as of 30 June 2002. | |



The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Palestinians in Lebanon

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) prohibits discrimination based on grounds such as race, color and national origin. Article 1(2) however, excludes noncitizens:

This Convention shall not apply to distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences made by a State Party to this Convention between citizens and noncitizens.

This seems to imply that the Convention may not be applicable in the case of discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon, because they are considered noncitizens. However, in the 2003 Final Report of the Sub-commission in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the rights of noncitizens has concluded that the Article 1(2) provision:

does not pre-empt the rights of noncitizens enumerated in other international instruments.¹

And in its General Recommendation XI on noncitizens, CERD states that Article 1, paragraph 2

must not be interpreted to detract in any way from the rights and freedoms recognized and enunciated in other instruments, especially

¹ Special Rapporteur Mr. David Weissbrodt, Final Report to the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights "Prevention of Discrimination: The rights of noncitizens," E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/23, 26 May 2003.



the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.²

Article 1(3) of the CERD prohibits discrimination against a “particular” nationality:

Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as affecting in any way the legal provisions of States Parties concerning nationality, citizenship or naturalization, provided that such provisions do not discriminate against any particular nationality.

Article 1(3) is not restricted to “nationality, citizenship or naturalization” as CERD General Recommendation XI further notes:

Article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination defines racial discrimination. Article 1, paragraph 2, excepts from this definition actions by a State party which differentiate between citizens and noncitizens. Article 1, paragraph 3, qualifies article 1, paragraph 2, by declaring that, among noncitizens, States parties may not discriminate against any particular nationality.

Discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon is evident in contravention to Article 1(3) provisions. Based on the above-mentioned considerations, discrimination against Palestinians is practiced in Lebanon through three mechanisms.

First, the “reciprocal treatment” principle in Lebanese legislature, stipulating mutual treatment of a foreigner in (1) the practice of certain professions and (2) benefiting from social security services. There is no Palestinian refusal of reciprocity; rather the affected Palestinians did not have the opportunity to adopt the reciprocal treatment principle with Lebanon, since Palestinian nationals are deprived of the establishment of their State (i.e., Palestine). Nonetheless, the Lebanese legislature considers the case of Palestinians identical to that of nationals of States that do not apply the reciprocal treatment principle.

This effectively entrenches Lebanese discrimination against Palestinians, particularly insofar as it breaches other general principles of human rights. Moreover, the UN Human Rights Committee General Recommendation XV on the position of aliens under the Covenant (1986) notes:

1. The rights set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights apply to everyone, irrespective of reciprocity, and irrespective of his or her nationality or statelessness.
2. Thus, the general rule is that each one of the rights of the Covenant must be guaranteed without discrimination

² Forty-second session (1993): General Recommendation XI on noncitizens, HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6, 12 May 2003, at 203.



between citizens and aliens. Aliens receive the benefit of the general requirement of non-discrimination in respect of the rights guaranteed in the Covenant, as provided for in article 2 thereof. This guarantee applies to aliens and citizens alike.

Secondly, the particularity of Palestinians' status in Lebanese legislature and the controversial interpretation of Palestinian *nationality* in Lebanese Laws and regulations manifest in discrimination. Even though Palestinians have a nationality [in accordance with Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 15] they are currently stateless. Nevertheless, the Lebanese Government issues travel documents to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon confirming the official Lebanese recognition of Palestinian nationality. Lebanon, as a member of the Arab League, officially recognizes the State of Palestine. However, Lebanese legislation and official practice contradict these other forms of recognition, substantively and materially discriminating against those who are not nationals of a *recognized* State, with Palestinians in Lebanon assigned to that exceptional category. This shows clear discrimination against Palestinians in particular, as opposed to other noncitizens in Lebanon generally.

Further discrimination is based on Lebanese suspicion of Palestinian *colonization* in Lebanon. Such suspicion, raised by a considerable number of Lebanese politicians, converts into aggressive paranoia that in return sustains social discrimination against Palestinians.

Thirdly, the failure of the Lebanese Government to act effectively to put an end to acts of discrimination in social practice against Palestinians in Lebanon. CERD Article 2(c) clearly notes:

Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists.

It is with appreciation that we note the Committee's most recent review of Lebanon under the Convention, recommending that:

the State party take all appropriate measures, including those of a legal nature, to fully guarantee access to work and equitable conditions of employment to all foreign workers, including Palestinians.³

It is important to point out, in this connection, that the status of Palestinians and the forms of discrimination they encounter in Lebanon are distinct from those pertaining to foreign or migrant workers and their families. Palestinians in Lebanon are not economic migrants, but refugees subject to breaches of the laws of war and humanitarian

³ CERD/C/304/Add.49, 30 March 1998, para. 24.

norms as developed at the time of their expulsion. Their location and their return are governed by greater forces and not matters of choice. International law guarantees that, as refugees, their treatment is to be consistent with the human rights and humanitarian norms binding on States. These same obligations, including and especially those found in ICERD, pertain to the case of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as a source of practical alternatives that pose solutions to public-policy dilemmas and the deprivation of some 300,000 people.



Areas of discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon

This section of the report highlights some of the major sectors where discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon, within the provisions of ICERD, is most evident:

Work

Some professions such as medicine, pharmacy, engineering, architecture, and law require affiliation to professional associations. For example, Lebanese Legislative Decree No. 1658 of 1979 regulates the affiliation to medical associations (dentistry excluded). The law permits foreigners to practice medicine in Lebanon if they are nationals of a State that applies the reciprocal treatment principle. This means that only citizens from a country that would let Lebanese nationals practice medicine, are allowed to practice in Lebanon. The association of pharmacists and the engineering associations in Lebanon also apply the reciprocal treatment principle.

Discrimination against Palestinians by the Lebanese Government within the context of work is evident. Even though Palestinians have a nationality, they are currently stateless. Thus, the reciprocal treatment principle may not be possible in their case. The choice for reciprocity on the Palestinian side is inexistent and, thus, the reciprocity principle in Lebanese law leads to discrimination against Palestinian nationals in “particular” in contrast with the nationalities of noncitizens.

In the case of other professions, the Lebanese Ministry of Labor issued Decision No. 621/1 in 1995. Article 1 and 2 of the 1995 decision contain lists of occupations reserved for Lebanese citizens:

Article 1:

The understated jobs and professions are restricted to Lebanese citizens only:

Workers:

All type of administration and banking jobs, especially: general manager, manager, deputy manager, staff manager, treasury, accountant, secretary, documentation, registry, computer, trade representative, marketing representative, trade consultant, workers supervisor, store manager, sales worker, exchange jobs, jeweler, laboratory, pharmacy and electrical workers, electronic, painting, glass fixing, mechanics and maintenance, doorman, concierge, guard, dyer, cook, butler, hairdresser, elementary/secondary and high school teachers, in case of need for foreign language teaching (foreigners are exempted), engineering in all specialties, landscape and land survey works. Priority should be given to Lebanese for all types of jobs and professions.

Business Owners:

Trade business (all categories), exchange, accounting, commission, engineering (all categories), contracting and building trades, jeweler,



shoes and clothes manufacturing, furniture and related works, patisserie, printing and publishing, hairdresser, ironing and drying, car maintenance (smith works, mechanical, glass fixing, furniture and electricity). In any job that impedes the chances for Lebanese.

Article 2:

Some foreigners are exempted from the obligations of the Decision of Article No. 8 of Decree No. 17561 dated September 19, 1964 (stipulating foreigners work) when it is applicable. Especially the following conditions, if the foreigner is:

1. Residing in Lebanon since birth,
2. of Lebanese origin or his/her mother is Lebanese
3. married to a Lebanese female for more than one year.

The minister is entitled to give final approval in any of the above-mentioned cases.

Decision No. 621/1 from 1995 lists a number of occupations reserved for Lebanese nationals as shown above. However, Article 2 also contains a provision that excludes some groups from the restrictions. The exclusion of people residing in Lebanon since birth should in particular be applicable to the majority of Palestinians that are actually born in Lebanon and not in Palestine. Thus, it may seem that there are no formal obstacles preventing Palestinians born in Lebanon from gaining work permits in the listed professions.

In practice, however, very few Palestinians are being granted work permits. One further manifestation of the discrimination practiced is in the fact that many Palestinians are forced to pay bribes to obtain work permits to which they are entitled.

The inability for the Palestinians in Lebanon freely to choose their occupation has led to poverty, apathy and general depression among the Palestinian community. In Lebanon, many Palestinians holding university degrees and those with advanced professional skills are forced to practice manual jobs that do not require any professional qualifications. This is perceived as degrading and humiliating.

Unemployment rates among Palestinians in Lebanon are very high, household income very low, and the health situation in the camps is deteriorating. 20 % of the refugees suffer from chronic health problems and the same percentage take medication due to psychological distress.⁴

⁴ Institute for Applied International Studies—FAFO, *Difficult Past, Uncertain Future: Living Conditions Among Palestinian Refugees in Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon*. (Oslo: FAFO, 2003).



Social Security

Social security contributions are withheld automatically from salary and wages. Article 9 of the Lebanese Social Security Law (1963) defines the conditions of foreign workers' eligibility for social security as follows:

foreign wage earners shall benefit from the provisions stipulated in the Social Security Law, provided they hold work permits in accordance with the laws and rules and regulations in force and provided that reciprocal treatment is afforded its own nationals where social security is concerned.

Since the Lebanese law regulating social security also applies the principle of reciprocity for foreigners, Palestinian's stateless condition forecloses their access to the right to social security and benefits for which they actually have paid. (There are certain exceptions, for instance, in the cases of work-related injuries.) In general, however, Palestinians are being discriminated against in the denial of social security rights by being treated differently than other noncitizens in Lebanon.

Housing

The refugee camps, where most Palestinians in Lebanon reside, are extremely crowded and are of poor condition. The average refugee household consists of 2.2 rooms and the occupancy rate is 2.6 persons per room. Among recently displaced families, this figure rises to 3.4 persons per room. Most camps lack adequate water and electricity and only 57% of households are connected to the public sewage system. Nearly seven out of ten households are cold and difficult to heat during winter. Lebanese authorities prohibit Palestinians living in the camps from transporting building materials into the refugee camps, especially in southern Lebanon. Hence, the shelters are dilapidated. In some camps, restrictions are so extreme that authorities even confiscate wood planks and nails from refugee camp residents.⁵

There is a number of Palestinians who were able to afford moving out of the camp and rent apartments. A considerable proportion of those were able to buy real estate.

In 2001, the Lebanese Parliament revised the Law 11614 (1969) concerning ownership of real estate by foreigners and a new clause was added to it forbidding

anyone who is not a national of a recognized State, or anyone whose access to property is contrary to the Constitution's provisions relating to colonization, from owning real estate.

Since the 2001 modification of this law, all registration of Palestinian-owned property has ceased. As the State of Lebanon otherwise

⁵ FAFO, op cit.



recognizes Palestinian nationality (see page 4 above), the revised Law 11614 of 2001 should not disadvantage Palestinians, unless their real estate property is considered part of a plan to *colonize* in Lebanon.



The preamble of the Lebanese Constitution (i) states:

There is no segregation of the people on the basis of any type of belonging, and no fragmentation, partition, or colonization.

Neither Lebanese Laws and regulations nor specific government directives indicate the legal grounds for suspicion of *colonization* and Palestinians were not specifically accused of colonization in the Constitution; however, suspicion of colonization is mostly and exclusively directed at Palestinians. Lebanese authorities arbitrarily discriminate against Palestinians in that regard.

The Lebanese Constitution clearly states in its preamble:

f. The economic system is free and ensures private initiative and the right to private property.

And in Article 15 on property, the Lebanese Constitution adds:

Rights of ownership are protected by law. No one's property may be expropriated except for reasons of public utility in cases established by law and after fair compensation has been paid beforehand.

Prohibiting Palestinians from owning, inheriting and purchasing property in Lebanon is an act of discrimination according to the CERD. Palestinians have the right to self determination and they are entitled, according to UN resolution 194 to return to their homeland. Thus, claims of ambitions for the *colonization* of Palestinians in Lebanon should not be used to discriminate against Palestinians in Lebanon.



Secondary effects of discrimination

Discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon substantially contributes to their ongoing impoverishment, which started with their forced expulsion from their homeland. The secondary effects of work, social security and housing-related discrimination against Palestinians in Lebanon include notable setbacks in education and health.

Per capita GNP in Lebanon is almost three times that of Syria or Jordan. However, the difficult economic situation for the Palestinians in Syria and Jordan is alleviated by the fact that they enjoy the benefits of health and education programs in their host country, something that the Palestinians in Lebanon are denied.

Education

Since the Palestinians confront difficulties acquiring work permits for jobs involving brainpower rather than manual labor, few youths see any point in acquiring a good education. 21% of children 7–18 years old are not enrolled in any school, and enrolment rates for 15–24 year-olds are half those of the rates for Lebanese youth. Four out of ten Palestinian students who drop out early, leave due to demotivation.⁶

Lebanese citizens are given priority in Lebanese State schools, severely limiting Palestinian participation in the national education system. 95 % of Palestinian school children attend UNRWA schools, where overcrowding finds an average of 53 pupils per classroom.

Health

Some 19 % of the Palestinians suffer from chronic health problems, with the majority with symptoms of psychological distress. UNRWA does not allocate resources to pay for the most expensive treatments and, in many cases, fatalities occur as a result of inadequate treatment. The Lebanese State health system is reserved for Lebanese citizens. Palestinian refugees do not have access to subsidized medical services and have to pay for it themselves or go without needed health care.

Social factors

The third generation of refugees in Lebanon undergo discrimination in universities, the work place and social life. As a consequence of the long pattern of discrimination against Palestinians as refugees has led to a blurring of the boundaries distinguishing between refugees and nonrefugees. According to analyst Rosemary Sayigh, “Palestinian refugees have been pathologized in a manner reminiscent of turn-of-the century American hyperbole that immigrants carried tuberculosis.” Such attitude supports the notion that segregating Palestinians would “facilitate normalization of post-war

⁶ FAFO, op cit.



Lebanon with national health restored through the isolation of an infectious presence.”⁷

The mechanisms that collectively exclude and deprive refugees in Lebanon are neither consistent with human rights norms nor conducive to needed conflict resolution and reconciliation. In this particular case, the Convention should serve as a guide to policy and law reform that poses practical solutions that promise long-term public benefits and avoid costly consequences. A cultural transformation of governance will be required to overcome deeply entrenched attitudes. Law and policy should lead and foster that process. However, neither the Lebanese Parliament nor the executive institutions within the Lebanese Republic have taken any effective measures to review policies that protect Palestinians from discrimination, despite numerous appeals by civil society, politicians and lawyers over the years.

⁷ Rosemary Sayigh, “Dis/Solving the Refugee Problem,” *Middle-East Report* (summer 1998). Sayigh’s research dates back six years, but her analysis remains valid and applicable today.



Conclusion and recommendations

The Lebanese Government discriminates against Palestinians in Lebanon in formal ways, breaching the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to which Lebanon acceded in 1971. However, this official discrimination in government policy and local legislation is symbiotic with popular prejudice. It is regrettable that the State party has not fulfilled its reporting requirements under the Convention, as pointed out in General Recommendation XI, “to report on matters relating to legislation on foreigners and its implementation.”⁸

The Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training in Lebanon, which is part of both Lebanese and Palestinian civil societies in Lebanon. Habitat International Coalition joins ISCVT—Beit Atfal al-Sumud in urging the State of Lebanon to undertake immediate measures to remove the mechanisms that discriminate against Palestinian refugees, and to remedy their material and substantive consequences.

We recommend that the Lebanese Government:

- Implement its ICERD Article 2(c) obligations **to reform the laws and regulations that discriminate** against Palestinians in Lebanon, especially those related to work (consistent with Article 5(e)[i]),⁹ the right to housing (5[e][iii]) and social security (Article 5[e][iv]).¹⁰ This requires modifying the Ministry of Labor Decision No. 621/1 (1995), as well as the Lebanese Social Security Law (1963), in particular, the “reciprocity” criterion in the practice of professions under law and the introduction of a new clause suspending *reciprocity* in the case of Palestinians currently residing in Lebanon. It is further recommended that that the suggested law allow for issuing special work permits for Palestinians in Lebanon and make those workers eligible for social security benefits. The suggested Law should also allow Palestinians residing in Lebanon, to join Lebanese professional associations as special temporary members;
- With particular regard to Article 5(e)(iii) obligations, **immediately lift all arbitrary bans on the delivery or transport of building materials** into refugee camps, in order to allow for social production of habitat and the needed improvement of living conditions;

⁸ Forty-second session (1993), General Recommendation XI on noncitizens, HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6.

12 May 2003, at 203, para. 2.

⁹ “The rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration...”

¹⁰ “The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services...”



- Consider practical means to respect Article 5(d)(i), (v) and (vi) of the Convention to **ensure** Palestinians living in Lebanon “the right to **freedom of movement and residence** within the border of the State”;
- **Remove barriers to home ownership** and other forms of **secure tenure** for Palestinian refugees “alone as well as in association with others” and to inherit that property;
- In conformity with its ICERD Article 5(d)(iii) obligations, provide consistency and substantive meaning to the recognition of Palestinian nationality;
- **Organize** parliamentary debates on this matter and involving representatives of Palestinians residing in Lebanon with legal and human rights experts;
- **Reactivate** effectively the monitoring mechanisms and the supervisory bodies within its executive institutions, namely the General Public Service Disciplinary Board and the Central Inspection Directorate, in order to make sure that the laws are being fully respected and implemented. The proper operation of such mechanisms avoids selective enforcements of the Law and prevents singular and particular interpretations of the Law and its application;
- Incorporate guidance on the diligent implementation of the above-mentioned reforms in the **training of lawyers, prosecutors, judges and law-enforcement officials**, in compliance with the guidance in General Recommendation XIII;¹¹ and
- **Promote educational and cultural programs** to combat all forms of prejudice, racial discrimination and xenophobia in Lebanon with a focus on those areas of actual discriminatory practice. This would involve, for example, ensuring that existing conflict-resolution curricula in schools and institutions be rendered more meaningful by conducting them in a context of official efforts to correct the structural factors of exclusion and substantive discrimination in law, institutions and social practice.

¹¹Forty-second session (1993), General Recommendation XIII on the training of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights, HRI/GEN1/Rev.6, op. .cit., at 203.