

June 18, 2018  
Beirut - Lebanon

**Re: Letter addressed to UNHCR by the Free Patriotic Movement – Youth Sector regarding the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon**

Dear Mr. High Commissioner,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the position of UNHCR on the Syrian refugees' issue in Lebanon.

- The call to return Syrian refugees back to Syria should not be labeled as a racist act, or stemming out of fanaticism. It primarily aims to help them: we support all refugees to return home.
- As most of areas in Syria have recently been marked safe, this serves as the suitable timing for the refugees to relocate back to their country.
- Lebanon has suffered previously with the case of Palestinian refugees. Displaced families were able to return to their hometowns only decades after; some did not even get the chance to return to date.
- The international community and United Nations organizations should encourage the return of the refugees to Syria and not work against it. To date, the UNHCR still states that Syrian territories lack security and stability, where in fact recent reports confirm that 80% of the country is marked safe. Many have returned to Idlib and areas controlled by the government.
- Lebanon is no longer able to absorb the negative consequences of the Syrian exodus. It's mainly exerting massive pressure on infrastructure, causing an immense downturn on the economic status, and drastically increasing the level of unemployment for Lebanese nationals. Recent statistics on unemployment reveal that 35 thousand Lebanese university graduates are seeking jobs in their homeland.
- Most refugees are after economic benefits offered to them in Lebanon from aids provided by UNHCR and NGOs. Their current presence is irrelevant to any security threat in Syria today.
- The Syrian refugees issue provokes an internal alert for Lebanese nationals residing in the country. It's an existential matter linked to sovereignty. The Lebanese Government under an endeavor lead by the UNHCR received the refugees, yet without any documentation of their identities to develop a proper tracking system of their presence on the Lebanese territories.

Reference to the above mentioned, we address the UNHCR in Lebanon with the following demands:

- 1- UNHCR to stop releasing inaccurate statements promoting the idea of instability in Syria which are further intimidating the refugees rather than incentivizing them to return back to their homeland.
- 2- UNHCR to cut off carrying out interviews with Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and addressing them with questions that are further raising their doubts about returning home.
- 3- UNHCR to confiscate all the "Refugee Cards" from Syrians that are going to Syria than returning to Lebanon just to benefit from the aids offered to refugees.
- 4- UNHCR to classify the refugees and label them under certain categories based on the reasons behind their current presence in Lebanon.
- 5- UNHCR to address the refugees' case based on the Lebanese government's will not the other way round.

We address the UNHCR to take the above-mentioned statements and demands into consideration and provide practical measures to avoid escalating further movements from the Free Patriotic Movement's Youth Sector side.

Lebanese youth is suffering and being forced to flee the country to seek decent job opportunities and lives away from their homeland, all for the sake of a refugees nation that should return back home and preserve its own country.

**Free Patriotic Movement  
Youth Sector**