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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by World Lebanese Cultural Union, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Displaced Syrians in Lebanon - the Host Nation that Has Become the Hostage

It is heartbreaking to witness the aftermath of the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic and the suffering of more than 1.5 million displaced persons who fled seeking succor in Lebanon, Jordan and Türkiye.

Inevitably, we feel sympathy witnessing these individuals struggling to live and exist.

It is time for the international community and for global governments to put a permanent plan for the Safe Return of these individuals guaranteeing them the respect in a just and dignified repatriation.

Today, despite the international assistance where more than 80% of these individuals live in Lebanon below the poverty line the solution seems impossible and the impact on the domestic populace is becoming intolerable.

The reality is that the Lebanese economy and the poor excuse for a government are incapable of attending to the influx of the displaced Syrians and in turn the Lebanese society is suffering inexorably with mass migrations and unmitigated social deprivations.

Already taxed by a government incapable of delivering sustainable living standards.

Concomitant with the recent financial crisis in Lebanon where the Lebanese currency lost more than 90% of its value and the facilitation by the international community to allow more than 4% of Lebanon population to be displaced this has severely caused intrepid impact to the infrastructure of Lebanon and in turn the Lebanese people. The impacts are as follows but not limited to:

1. Water and sanitation
2. Solid waste
3. Electricity
4. Transportation
5. Education
6. Health
7. Economy
8. Finance

Conclusion:

1. Return urgently the displaced peoples to the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. The UNHCR to continue to work on resettling the most vulnerable of the displaced persons outside Lebanon and to consider other opportunities for displaced Syrians to be located to third host nations.
3. The same mistake should not repeat or replicate the problems that are occurring in Bangladesh with the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar by failing to be astute to host nations becoming the hostages of those to whom they have given succor.
