



المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO

Member of International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Member of Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR)

Member of Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EUROMED RIGHTS)



Ein ElHelwih Camp

**Are we Facing another Racial separation Barrier?!! And this Time in Lebanon,
Are we going to Follow Steps of our sisters organization in Palestine and Resort to
Litigation?!!**

Lately the Lebanese army started building a high concrete wall and surveillance towers separating Ein El-Helwih camp (which is already surrounded by concrete cubes barbell wire) on the west side from its surrounding. At an earlier phase, the eastside was lined up with concrete cubes, the four entrances of the camp were ramparted to become like a passage way that turns the camp which is less than square kilometer and inhabited by more than 70 thousand people, into a detainment both in form and essence.

Palestinian human Rights Organization **PHRO**, considers the thought of constructing this barrier, with the justification made by the Lebanese security apparatus which leaked through media, **is a clear act of violation to the United Nation convention and the international human rights bill** (declaration of human rights and related conventions) and many other international treaties such:

- Convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- International convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.
- Fourth Geneva Convention especially concerning banning the methods of collective punishment.

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law”¹ **Building such a barrier under the argument of protecting the camp** from possibility of terrorists sneaking in, and/ or protecting the camp’s surrounding area from terrorists sneaking out of it, **is considered a collective punishment against 70 thousand people. This procedure contradicts the international humanitarian law. According to the fourth Geneva Convention 1949, collective punishment is considered a war crime** , second additional protocol 1977 clearly bans collective punishment² , its also violates all rights issued in the universal declaration of human rights and the two conventions of civil , political and economic , social and cultural rights.

60% of Palestinians live under poverty line, suffer from high rates of unemployment and health problems, due to living conditions in the camps given the decline of UNRWA’s services, this isn’t only a humanitarian issue but also a direct consequence of constrictions imposed by the Lebanese government on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who since 68 ears are still suffering from all kinds of human rights violations especially the right to work.

¹ Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights <http://www.un.org/ar/documents/udhr/>

² Geneva convention fourth treaty <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>



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It's should be noted that the timing of constructing the wall came shortly after what's considered as a success for the Lebanese army intelligence- south department in closing a deal with the camps leadership to surrender some wanted *based on Documents and regulations contact subjugation which is illegal procedure and deactivated by the Lebanese government decision on July 14th 2014*³ . Where Ministers of internal affairs, justice and defense: were asked to reconsider that procedure. But it seems that **Palestinian refugees were excluded** from the deactivation of this procedure, just like they were excluded of the amnesty issued after Al-Taif agreement about individual committed crimes since the beginning of civil war in 1975 in **obvious racial division**

The praise of the Lebanese official source, through leaked media, for such an act, in addition to the abidance of wanted persons in Ein El-Helweh camp in the deal between the camps leaders and Lebanese army intelligence, by giving themselves in despite the illegality of the procedure made them wanted. **This eliminates any arguments claiming that the camp is a place for wanted insubordinate people.** But it seems that some parties don't want the situation to develop and relief the camp from the constant pressure since the early 90s of the 20th century. Among the arguments they leaked by media, was the consequence of Imad Yassin arrest, describing him as a prince (Amir) of ISIS in Ein El-Helweh.

Taking the camp and its dwellers hostages for such consequence is considered a collective punishment and violation of the rights of dwellers, international law and international humanitarian law. **Lebanese security apparatus' justification of the construction of the wall security reasons**⁴ is **unreliable**, taking into consideration the abidance of a large number of wanted, on bases of "illegal" Documents and regulations contact subjugation, and the easy arrest of Imad Yassin with the absence of any security consequence until now.

PHRO has always called for adoption of human security approach along with procedural justice conditioned with fair fulfillment of it in order to reach peace and social cohesion to corner all kinds and manifestations of extremism and law breaking.

In this context the development program of United Nations of 1994 human develop report⁵, which considered a tauter in the domain of human security confirms that **"the insurance of freedom from poverty and freedom from fear is the best way to solve the problem of lacking security"**. All researches and studies consequent from economic and social data in Ein El-Helweh indicates that **the rate of poverty and unemployment is in its highest levels, so is the feeling of fear, lack of security and hope in future**⁶.

³ <http://www.pcm.gov.lb/arabic/subpg.aspx?pageid=5764>

⁴ www.al-akhbar.com/node/268541

⁵ <http://www.un.org/ar/esa/hdr/pdf/hdr14.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/survey-economic-status-palestine-refugees-lebanon>



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Needless to say, that the international justice court, conforming the illegality of constructing walls around the civilians, has published on July 4th 2004 as a consultant opinion about the legal case "Israeli division barrier" fulfilling the demand of united nations general assembly on Dec 3rd 2003 and its lack of legality demanded tearing it apart immediately⁷.

Media has talked about freezing of building the wall, **PHRO calls for abolishment of the project completely** for its containing of violations for the international law and the international humanitarian law, and for its security, economic and social negative repercussions.

PHRO sees that Lebanese security apparatus should refrain from taking such a procedure resembling with what Israel practices like confinement and degradation of rights against Palestinians and calls for refraining from dealing with the Palestinian refugee file as a security context. This is not only proved to be dysfunctional throughout 68 years in Lebanon, but also contributed to the spread of violent acts, emergence of hatred and racism. **PHRO calls for dealing with the issue from human rights based approach** which limited any possibility of emerging Extremism in areas inhabited by Palestinian refugees and **enables this marginalized minority to rise and fortify itself from all kinds of exploitation.**

In this context, "PHRO" highly recognize the overall position of Dr. Hassan Mneimneh, Chairman of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee "LPDC", **stated in the paper titled "Ein El-Hilweh and the absence of efficient solutions"**, where he profoundly highlighted the causes of dire situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, **PHRO** emphasizes that the danger is not what has been circulated in Social Media where a comparison has been made between this wall and apartheid wall in occupied Palestine, but the jeopardy is in the concept of building this wall. **PHRO** agree with his Excellency's opinion that clearly stated that Palestinians are responsible equally with the Lebanese to protect the camps and their dwellers safety. We reemphasize that **the sustainable solution is based on human security and not the one based on collective punishment where for fewer than tens of wanted persons a confinement will be practiced against more than 70,000 dwellers as if they are infected by epidemics (plague and leprosy)**

P.S this is the English version of the position paper "مخيم عين الحلوة - هل نحن أمام جدار فصل عنصري ثان؟! وهذه المرة في" " published in Dec 4th 2016 "لبنان هل سنحذوا حذو ملائنا في فلسطين بالجوء إلى القضاء!!"

⁷ A/ES-10/273 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/419/84/PDF/N0441984.pdf>