



***Lebanon Prevents the Entry of Palestinian - Syrian refugees
...."And the Legal Cover"***

Friday, 23rd May 2014

The recent decisions issued by the Lebanon Ministry of Interior had a legitimate form and considered as sovereign decisions that any state has the right to take, in the context of the mechanisms regulating the entry and exit through the border crossings whether land, sea and air. This was confirmed by Interior Minister "Nihad Al Mashnouq" by denying the existence of decisions prevents entry of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon when he said that "there is no decision to prevent the entry of Palestinian refugees in Syria to Lebanon or crossing through it". He also added "this decision was to avoid committing any future mistakes that may affect the security situation in Lebanon, and on Lebanon's relations with several Arab countries".

However, by looking at these decisions, the following notes can be taken:

- These decisions lacked to the executive mechanisms making those in charge of crossing border points or centers of public security in Lebanon interpret it according to his viewpoint. Some of these centers renew the residency of refugees and some of them refuse and other detained, and the last release of detainees after writing pledges to renew the residence or will be deported. When the one who wrote the pledge ask for renewal they refuse it, as happened with some of those who were stopped on 10th of May because of the end of their residency.*
- The requirement to obtain a prior visa from the General Security in Lebanon, obviously, is a crippling condition in these circumstances because the situation is exceptional for the refugees to wait until he fulfill the required conditions, especially that there is a danger threatening them. In the second part of the first article (or a residence card (one year -3 years – compliment or exit and return of several trips till expire), this is not possible for a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, with the exception of*



the Palestinian refugee who is married to a Lebanese or born of them, while the majority of Palestinian refugees from Syria do not fulfill these conditions.

- *To stop granting automatic visa for Palestinian refugees at the border , even if they have a return permission, through these difficult circumstances , can be regarded as a violation of their right and tightening on the refugees fleeing from death that persecuted them in their usual life .*

- *The refusal to extend the Automatic visa granted and extended previously resulted in a number of procedures just like a campaign of arrests carried out by members of the Lebanese army on the checkpoints under the guidance of the Public Security Directorate somehow captured by some military officers. Thus canceled the option of automatic monthly extension for a year which had been announced by General Security at the beginning of the crisis and the influx of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon.*

It seemed clear beyond any doubt that dealing with Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon is quite different than in dealing with the Syrian refugees despite of the same conditions that drive them to asylum. " Coercive Return" to Syria was implemented on the Palestinians after waiting for days or hours ,in a clear violation of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in 1951 and the 1967 Protocol, and Article 3 of the Convention against torture in 1984.

The Palestinian- Syrian presence has not been regarded to be caused by coercive circumstances; it's regarded as a normal presence requires fulfilling the conditions mentioned above, in moments could be the last one in his life.