



# وكالة الأمم المتحدة

لإغاثة وتنفيذ الاجتهاد الفلسطيني في الشرق الأوسط

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**To: Commissioner General, HQ (Gaza)**  
**From: Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon**  
**Subject: Situation Report: 48 hours up to 15:30- 28 May, 2007**

## **UNRWA: Thousands Still Trapped in Nahr al-Bared**

Sporadic clashes continued last night in Nahr EL Bared camp as Fatah al-Islam militants fired off bursts of automatic gunfire which was met with anti-tank fire from Lebanese troops, according to the press reports. The majority of families (an estimated 21,000 persons) from the besieged northern Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr el-Bared have fled mostly to Beddawi camp in Tripoli. However, thousands remain trapped inside under extremely difficult humanitarian conditions. There have been unconfirmed media reports saying that the militants are using those left inside Nahr el-Bared as human shields.

According to UNRWA figures 5,325 refugee families have left the camp since fighting began one week ago. There are 31,478 registered refugees in Nahr El Bared camp but the Agency estimates the numbers of those actually living in the camp at around 27000.

The Lebanese Government has vowed to finish off this "terrorist movement", but continues to stress its quarrel is not with the general Palestinian community. The army has stationed more troops around the camp, which is already ringed by hundreds of soldiers, backed by artillery and tanks.

Palestinian factions, meanwhile, have been scrambling to find a negotiated solution to end the siege and avert what many fear would be a bloody battle between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam.

## **Hand grenade explodes at major Beirut intersection, two injured**

A hand grenade was thrown late last evening from a bridge to a main road at a major Beirut intersection, police said. Two civilians and three policemen were slightly injured and were treated at a nearby hospital; police said a vehicle was damaged. A grenade was also thrown late 27 May, near an army checkpoint just outside the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in southern Lebanon. There were no injuries but tension inside Ein El Hilweh camp and around it is very high..

## **Jumblat criticises Nasrallah over Fatah al-Islam**

Druze leader Walid Jumblat accused Syria of sponsoring Fatah al-Islam to destabilise Lebanon as Premier Fouad Saniora's government gave Palestinian mediators a chance to find a peaceful solution to the bloody conflict by handing over the killers of the Lebanese army soldiers. Saniora discussed the situation with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas during a telephone contact, according to the Prime Minister's office.

Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who heads Lebanon's opposition, has warned the Saniora government against an army assault on the camp to avoid turning Lebanon into a new front in the US-led "war on terror."

The parties negotiating a possible solution to the Fatah al-Islam issue are the main Palestinian factions in Lebanon including Fatah, the Islamic group Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). It is believed Fatah Al-Islam is led by a Palestinian from Jordan and the group is made up of a few

hundred Islamist extremists of various Arab nationalities and is "inspired" by the Al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden.

### Revised Draft U.N. Resolution Gives Lebanese until June 10 to set up Tribunal

A revised draft UN resolution to unilaterally establish the international tribunal that would try ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's suspected assassins would give the Lebanese parliament a grace period until June 10 to ratify it. However, if the Lebanese parties do not overcome their differences by this date, the agreement between the United Nations and the Lebanese government to establish the special court would enter into force. The council is scheduled to discuss the new draft on 30 May, and US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, the current council president, said he expects a vote in the following days.

#### SITUATION BY AREA:

**Situation in the north:** Situation is now quiet but cautious following heavy clashes and shelling last night in the Camp.

16 UNRWA staff members are still inside Nahr el-Bared.

Camp inhabitants suffer from shortage of food, potable water and electricity and possible problems due to lack of access to health care;

In Beddawi Camp, all UNRWA installations (other than schools) are operating normally. Families in the camp are hosting IDPs from Nahr el-Bared. It was reported that one family was hosting 11 others. The conditions are cramped and there is now heavy pressure on the water and sanitation services as well as electricity supply, despite the additional support services brought in by UNRWA and UNICEF.

**Situation in CLA:** All UNRWA installations operating normally. Teachers living in North Lebanon are not reporting to duty due to the current security situation.

There are now 117 displaced families from Nahr el Bared Camp in B/Barajneh Camp;

In total 180 displaced families from Nahr El Bared Camp arrived at Shatila Camp; and

A total of 12 displaced families from Nahr El Bared Camp arrived to Mar Elias Camp.

**Situation in Beqaa:** All UNRWA operations in Beqaa area are functioning normally. Distributions of aids from UNRWA to displaced families started at Beqaa Area

A further 38 displaced families have arrived in the area and are accommodated with other families.

23 displaced families are accommodated now at Wavel Camp

**Situation in Tyre:** All installations operating normally. Distribution of aids from UNRWA to displaced families started at Tyre Area and Camps.

A further 60 displaced families from Nahr el Bared Camp arrived to Rashidieh Camp and are hosted by relatives;

A further 30 displaced families arrived from Nahr el Bared Camp to El-Buss Camp;

A sound bomb exploded on Sunday midnight beside two centers for Fatch (PLO) and PFLP. No casualties were reported.

**Situation in Saida:** UNRWA services are operating normally. Students reported to schools today as usual. Lebanese Army checkpoints continue to search cars at the entrance of Saida Town and Jadra Area. In total 120 families displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp arrived in Saida.

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Richard J. Cook