

LERC participates in the meeting on Palestinian Refugees Rights in Lebanon between Parliamentary Council of Human Rights, NGOs, IGOs and experts.

Monday 29th November 2010, Beirut

Reported by Marwan Abdallah, LERC Research Assistant

The Lebanese Emigration research Center, represented by Assistant Researcher Marwan Abdallah, participated in the meeting on Palestinian Refugees Rights in Lebanon with the participation also of the Parliamentary Council of Human Rights, represented by MPs Michel Moussa, Ghassan Moukhaiber, Elie Keyrouz and Hikmat Dib, the Ministry of the Interior, the Syndicates of Lawyers in Beirut and Tripoli, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, and the expert Jaber Sleiman.

The meeting held in the library of the Lebanese Parliament started with a statement from Chairman MP Michel Moussa, about the purpose of the meeting. Later, Mr. Jaber Sleiman presented his study about Palestinian refugee status in Lebanon with possible solutions and reforms. Afterward, there was discussion during which the participants shared their ideas and opinions.

Many opinions were expressed by representatives of the NGO's and the two Syndicates of Lawyers. LERC's representative highlighted the importance of having an accurate estimate of the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon before adopting any strategy, as different estimations would lead to different conclusions.

He also underlined the importance of discussing related issues such as Palestinian weapons inside and outside the refugee camps, Settlement and Naturalization (a major fear for numerous Lebanese parties), the problems of outlawry, ownership of camp territory, funding of the programs and reforms, role of UNRWA and other International bodies and donors, etc...

The ownership of camp territory concerns the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon which are built on territories that belong to Lebanese citizens and mostly to different churches in Lebanon. The land's rightful owners are not receiving any revenue for these lands neither can they use these lands for projects or as investments. The point being is that these Lebanese citizens and communities also have their rights.

The meeting was concluded without the adoption of any strategy, for MP Moussa argued that it was now an internal matter for the Parliamentary body, and that the meeting was only an advisory meeting for the policy makers concerned.