



Dr. Guita Hourani Lectures on Livelihood as one of the Security Dimensions of Refugees

***By LERC Staff
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At the invitation of the Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) of the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California in the USA, Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaizé in Lebanon, gave a lecture on the livelihood of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

In her presentation, Dr. Hourani gave an overview on the livelihood of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon concentrating on food, education, health and employment. She linked the obstacles faced in attaining a descent acquisition of these human needs to threats of physical security to the refugees and the host communities. She further stressed the fact that unemployment among the refugees particularly the vulnerable youth would a) waste enormous human capacity; b) lead to engagement in illegal and/or immoral activities (e.g. human trafficking, drug dealing, prostitution, theft and the like); and c) risk their mobilization by extremist groups.

Dr. Hourani's recommendations included among others devising immediate job creation programs and enhance access to employment opportunities for both Syrian refugees and hosting communities through labor intensive developmental projects, as well as encouraging Syrian investors/entrepreneurs to invest in Lebanon by providing them with a suitable investment environment, especially in non-competitive sectors, to create new jobs for Lebanese and Syrian refugees alike.

The lecture was part of a seminar on the security dimensions of refugees that was organized by the US Naval Postgraduate School for mid to upper level officers from the Lebanese army at the General Fouad Chehab Academy for Command and General Staff in Lebanon from January 18-22, 2016.