



BADIL's Oral Statement,

UNHRC, 50th, Item #3 (23 June 2022):

Upholding the Rights of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon: Responsibility of Lebanon, Israel, and the International Community

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are facing rapidly increasing levels of food insecurity, unemployment, poor housing conditions, poverty, and a lack of access to health services, gas, electricity, and heating. Lebanon's categorization of the more than 479,000 Palestinian refugees as foreigners rather than refugees prevents them from obtaining a work permit, limiting them to informal sector jobs that are low-paid and unprotected. It further prohibits Palestinian refugees from owning real estate, generating over-crowdedness in the 12 refugee camps while forcing others to live in 'informal housing.'

These conditions are exacerbated by a chronically underfunded UNRWA that is constantly facing Israeli-led attacks and defamation campaigns, compromising the Agency's ability to provide adequate services to all Palestinian refugees, including education and health care. As a result, and according to the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Palestinian refugees "have lived in the country for generations, since 1948, yet they still have an ambivalent legal status and live at the margins of society."

BADIL therefore calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to call on:

- Member states to adequately fund UNRWA to ensure the protection of Palestinian refugees and their rights;
- And the Lebanese government to adopt appropriate domestic legislation and increase cooperation with UNRWA to ensure Palestinian refugees' social, civil, economic and basic rights.