



Statement of the National Institution for Human Rights on the anniversary of the United Nations World Refugee Day

20 June 2013

The United Nations celebrates the World Refugee Day on June 20 of each year which was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations starting from 2001 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, who have been expelled from their homes because of war or persecution, in order to provide lasting solutions to assist them to return to their homes.

The Geneva-based office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is one of the United Nations organs that have arisen in the wake of World War II, under General Assembly resolution 319 (IV) issued on December 3, 1949 as one of the key international agencies responsible for providing refugees protection in the world.

The Commission is celebrating this year with the launch of the «one family» campaign which aims to raise awareness about the devastating effects of armed conflict on families and to remind the world that the war victims are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who have left everything behind.

The Number of displaced persons and refugees has reached more than 45 million which is the highest number in nearly 20 years, and in the past year alone, people were forced to leave their homes in the pace of one person every four seconds.

According to the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the average number of Syrian refugees registered abroad was 1.0003 million, where the Commission estimates that the number of Syrian refugees may reach up to 3.5 million by the end of 2013 added to the current 4 million displaced Syrians inside Syria.



On this occasion, the National Institution for Human Rights commends the initiatives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain to establish Bahrain residential complex for the Syrian at Al-Zaatari camp in Jordan. The complex includes four schools and 500 units of residential cabins ready for refugees, in addition to the Bahrain Center for psychological guidance.

National Institution for Human Rights also commends the efforts of the United Nations, particularly the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in securing urgent aid of housing, food, water and health care in the war-affected areas and calls on the international community to intensify efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts and to help achieve peace and security to reunion families and enable refugees to return to their homes.

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