

A short statement by INSAN Association defending Human Rights regarding the Emergency and Rapid assistance needed at the Palestinian Refugee camps in Saida (South of Lebanon)

1st of August 2023

On the 1st of August 2023, a field visit was carried out to Saida by Insan Association

Defending Human Rights. This visit was done to determine the emergency needs resulting from the current events in Ain Al- Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

In a press release issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees on July 31, 2023, it was indicated that armed violence continued in the camp and its negative effects, as 11 people were killed and 40 others were injured, including an agency employee, and two schools affiliated with the agency were damaged and fled. Approximately 2000 people.

Significant findings:

During the last four days, armed clashes continued in Ain El-Hilweh camp, which is the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon. These clashes led to the displacement of many families from the camp, which is home to about 80,000 Palestinian refugees.

About a thousand families (4,000 people) have been displaced, including many children, women, the elderly and people with special needs. Many infrastructures such as drinking water, electricity, sewage, and roads were destroyed, and many houses (about 700 houses) were burned and destroyed, in addition to the destruction of property, shops, and vehicles.

In addition, those affected took refuge in mosques adjacent to the camp, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees "UNRWA" opened schools near the camp and Mieh Mieh camp to accommodate displaced families and meet their urgent needs.

Recommendations:

Insan Association invites and urges all relevant donors, humanitarian agencies and NGOs to provide urgent assistance and relief to those affected by these unfortunate events, especially with regard to housing, water, psychological and social support, protection, personal hygiene, and the protection of the dignity of women and girls. Insan Association believes that these needs have not been fully met through the contributions made by civil society organizations to provide water, fast food, blankets and mattresses.

It should be noted that this is not the first time that armed clashes have occurred in the camp, resulting in deaths, injuries and destruction, in addition to the displacement of refugees.

Insan Association intends, based on its humanitarian duties, to urge all relevant authorities to provide assistance and rapid support to those affected by these painful events.