



## Palestinians In Syria And Lebanon

Thousands of Palestinian refugees fled to Syria and Lebanon as a result of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 and the establishment of the state of Israel in Palestine.

As of June 30, 1974, there were 178,267 UNRWA-registered Palestinians in Syria with an additional 100,000 (estimated by the Government of Syria) non-registered Palestinian refugees. Of this number 38,485 refugees are sheltered in the following six "established" camps and four "emergency" (established after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war) camps:

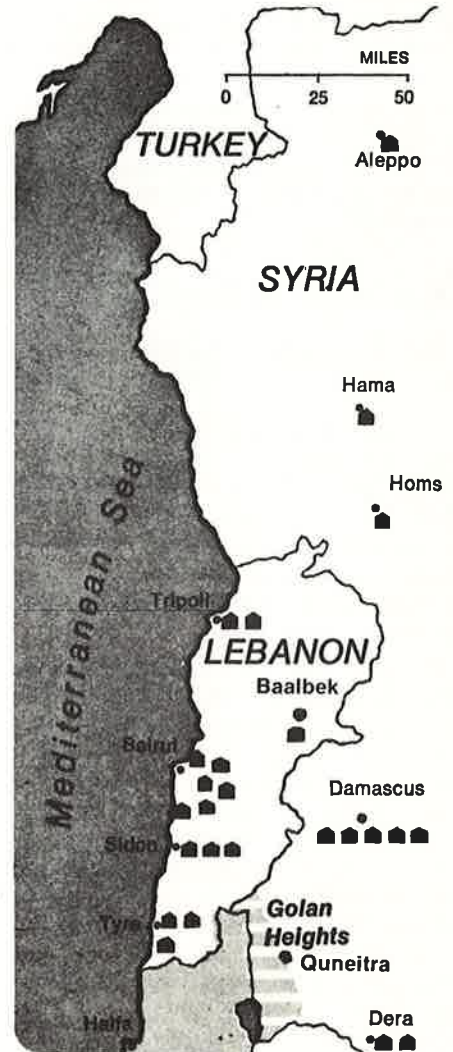
- near Damascus ..... Khan Esh Shieh Camp  
Khan Dannoun Camp  
Sbeineh Emergency Camp  
Qabr Essit Emergency Camp  
Jaramana Emergency Camp
- in Dera'a ..... Dera'a Camp  
Dera'a Emergency Camp
- in Homs ..... Homs Camp
- in Hama ..... Hama Camp
- near Aleppo ..... Neirab Camp

In Lebanon as of June 30, 1974 there were 197,111 UNRWA-registered refugees. The Government of Lebanon estimates the presence of another 100,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon but who are not registered with UNRWA. Of those refugees registered with UNRWA 97,111 are sheltered in the following established camps in Lebanon:

- in Beirut ..... Mar Elias Camp
- near Beirut ..... Burj Barajneh Camp  
Dikwaneh Camp  
Dbayeh Camp  
Chatila Camp  
Jisr el Basha Camp
- in Sidon ..... Ein El Helweh Camp  
Nabatieh Camp  
Mieh Mieh Camp
- in Tyre ..... Buss Camp  
Rashidieh Camp  
Burj Shamali Camp
- in Tripoli ..... Nahr El Bared Camp  
Baddawl Camp
- near Baalbek ..... Wavel Camp

Neither Syria nor Lebanon are "oil-rich" countries. Syria's economy is based on agriculture while 75% of Lebanon's income is derived from tourism, trade, and services. Both countries have relatively small populations—Syria reported 6.895 million people in mid-1973 and Lebanon reported 2.7 million in 1964 (the last time a census was taken for Lebanon).

Yet in 1973-74, Lebanon and Syria contributed \$2,393,503 and \$4,147,908, respectively, to the Palestinian refugees both in the form of direct assistance and cash grants to UNRWA. (Source: Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to the U.N. General Assembly, July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974).



**\*ANERA is a non-profit, charitable organization which seeks: to increase total assistance in cash and kind from American sources to Palestinian Arab refugees and other needy individuals in the Middle East; to be responsive in crises affecting civilian populations in the area, particularly displacement and casualties caused by war; and to increase American understanding of the Palestinian refugee problem.**



**QUNEITRA, SYRIA**—This photo shows Israeli destruction of Quneitra, most of which took place just prior to withdrawal. The spire on the left horizon is the minaret of a mosque while the double spires on the right horizon are what is left of the Syrian Orthodox Church (40% of the former inhabitants of Quneitra were Christian). Upon viewing the remains of Quneitra, the British Ambassador to Syria is reported to have exclaimed, "God, horrible, they turned the whole city into ruins. There is simply no justification for what Israel has done here." Secretary-General of the U.N., Kurt Waldheim, stated, "I was very shocked by what I saw at Quneitra."

## Quneitra: Death Of A City

Quneitra, once a bustling city of 40,000 people in Syria's Golan Heights, is a ghost town.

In 1948, Quneitra became a place of refuge for Palestinians fleeing from the ravages of war in their own country to Syria. The total number of refugees in Quneitra at that time is not known but the Palestinian element was reported to be "significant" (UNRWA, Newsletter No. 79).

In June, 1967, the Palestinians in Quneitra again lost their homes, this time as a result of Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights. 115,000 people moved from the area to the North and East. Of this number, roughly 17,500 were Palestinian refugees who were registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); the number of non-registered Palestinians is not known.

Syrian and Palestinian refugees going north were mainly headed for Damascus. Refugees going east sought the town of Dera'a, on the Syrian-Jordanian border. Most of the Syrian refugees lived with friends or relatives in the areas near Damascus and Dera'a. For Palestinians without such accommodations, tents were provided by UNRWA and four new emergency camps were created: Dera'a, Sbeineh, Qabr Essit, and Jaramana (the latter three are located near Damascus).

As has previously been the case in UNRWA camps, most of the tents of the four "emergency" camps were eventually replaced by mud-brick huts.

Food, shelter and cash grants were given to the twice-displaced Palestinians by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, UNRWA, and voluntary agencies such as ANERA.

In late May, 1974, Syria and Israel signed agreements which, among other things, restored the town of Quneitra to Syrian control. However, according to newspaper and television accounts at the time of the handover, approximately 80% of Quneitra was destroyed. Eye-witness accounts report that most of the destruction took place only days before the Israeli withdrawal.

As reported by the media (See, for example: *The Christian Science Monitor*, "Devastation Sours—Quneitra Handover", July 3, 1974 and *The Times* of London, July 10, 1974), evidence obtained on the scene at Quneitra showed that destruction of the city was deliberate. Residential and business areas were dynamited or bull-dozed into rubble. The main supply of water for the town was dynamited—other water supplies in the area were found to contain engine oil which was evidently poured down the wells. Personal belongings such as furniture, household items, etc., were not found among the rubble; doors and window frames were similarly stripped from the buildings before they were demolished.

It will be many months before the reconstruction of Quneitra can begin and Syrian displaced persons can return to the site of their former homes. Syrian officials are contemplating the rebuild-

### First-Hand View

John Richardson, President of ANERA, recently returned from the Middle East, after reviewing 28 of 29 institutions which received ANERA support during Fiscal Year 1973-74. Mr. Richardson met with officials in Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the Occupied Territories (the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza). Copies of his trip report may be obtained from the ANERA office.

ing of Quneitra on a new site since the cost of clearing the old location would require a massive outlay of funds. During Fiscal Year 1973-74, ANERA provided a grant of \$40,000 to the Syrian Red Crescent Society, an organization comparable to the American Red Cross, which will probably be used to open a Red Crescent Chapter in Quneitra. ANERA's President, John Richardson, visited Quneitra in August, 1974, during a trip to ANERA-assisted projects in the Middle East.

It is uncertain at the present time whether the Palestinians who originally found refuge in Quneitra will return once reconstruction is begun. In all likelihood, they will remain in the emergency camps in Dera'a and near Damascus.

### Christmas Cards

Friends of Jerusalem Christmas cards for the 1974 Holiday Season may be purchased from either of the following two organizations concerned with the Palestinian refugees:

Greeting Card Committee  
AAUG, New York Chapter  
777 U.N. Plaza, Suite 7F  
New York, New York 10017

SERRV  
Church World Service Center  
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

## ANERA In Syria And Lebanon

During the past six years, ANERA has made cash grants to projects in Syria and Lebanon totaling \$82,500.00. An additional \$166,438 worth of drugs and medical supplies have been donated to UNRWA by the AMER division of ANERA during the past two years for use in refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Occupied Territories (the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza). Last year, ANERA also made available indirectly \$2 million for war relief efforts in Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Due basically to a lack of funds, ANERA's efforts in Syria and Lebanon have not been of as large a magnitude as in the Occupied Territories where most Palestinian refugees are located. **Educational grants:** In Lebanon, the **American University of Beirut** has received a total of \$4,100 from ANERA over the past six years in scholarships for needy Palestinian students attending A.U.B. Similarly, **Beirut University College** (formerly Beirut College for Women) has received grants of \$3,000 for Palestinian students. **Marjoun National College** is a high school located in South Lebanon, in the vicinity of several major refugee camps. Israeli bombing raids into South Lebanon have caused particular hardships for the parents of children attending the school. ANERA's grants of \$6,150 have been used for the past three years to ease the burden so that families can continue to send their children to Marjoun.

**Medical grants:** In addition to the work of AMER mentioned above, the **Medical Students' Society** of the American University of Beirut received an ANERA grant of \$2,500 last year for its work in



**QABR ESSIT EMERGENCY CAMP, Damascus, Syria**—Mohammed Abou Shehadeh has been forced to exchange his homes—first a house in Palestine, then another house he built himself in the Golan Heights—for a tent in which he has spent the last seven years. (UNRWA photo by Jack Modvo)



**JARAMANA EMERGENCY CAMP, Damascus, Syria**—This camp near Damascus provides shelter for some 3,500 homeless Palestinian refugees and it is the largest of the "emergency" camps created after the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights in Syria. Until recently, the "homes" of the refugees in Jaramana were these tents. Today, thanks to donations, most of the tents have been replaced by mud-brick huts which offer more protection from the cold winters of Syria. (UNRWA photo by Jack Madvo)



**DIKWANEH CAMP, Beirut, Lebanon**—On the outskirts of Beirut are the tin shanties of Dikwaneh Camp. Here over 6,000 persons live, most of them in shacks that they have patched together from flattened oil drums, old scraps of lumber and whatever other material they could find. (UNRWA photo by Myrtle Winter)

supplying drugs and interns to civilians during the October War. The **Lebanese Red Cross** was given \$5,000 for similar work in South Lebanon. In Syria, the **Syrian Red Crescent Society** received \$40,000 which has been designated to establish facilities in Quneitra for returning Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

**Community Development grants:** The **National Alliance of YMCA's in Lebanon** has received \$6,500 over the past five years from ANERA. These funds have provided camperships and youth leadership opportunities for several hundred Palestinian boys. The **Association for the Resurgence of Palestinian Camps** is significantly contributing to community development in the refugee camps of Lebanon. ANERA grants totaling \$9,000 have helped to maintain the Association's education-

al, vocational training, and sports programs for refugee children and women.

During the coming year, ANERA will be alert to refugee needs in Syria and Lebanon as each community of Palestinians faces potentially grave problems. In Syria, the possible return of Syrians and Palestinians to Quneitra and the Golan Heights will require additional assistance such as the establishment of new schools for the children. In Lebanon, the frequent Israeli bombing raids continue to depopulate villages and refugee camps in South Lebanon. For those fleeing to other refugee camps further north in Lebanon and into Syria, new facilities to accommodate the influx will be necessary. For those refugees and villagers trying to maintain their homes in South Lebanon, medical and relief assistance is crucial.

Donors who wish to contribute to ANERA's work in Syria and Lebanon should complete this form and send it with their tax-deductible donation to: ANERA, 733 15th St., N.W., Room 900, Washington, D.C. 20005. Thank you for your help.

\$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Sixth Annual Board Meeting

On September 23, 1974, the Sixth Annual Meeting of the ANERA Board of Directors was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. An informal dinner meeting at the National Presbyterian Center was held the evening of September 22 for Board Members and their spouses. In addition to the normal business of the Board of Directors, the Members heard a report from ANERA President John Richardson on his recent trip to the Middle East to view ANERA-assisted projects at first hand. The Board also gave its attention to possible ANERA initiatives prior to Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, in light of great and pressing needs.

ANERA's Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 1974-75 consists of the following:

Karim Ajluni, Esq.  
Detroit, Michigan

\*\*Dr. Mansour Armaly  
Washington, D.C.

D. Joseph Asfour  
San Francisco, California

Hugh D. Auchincloss, Jr.  
New York, New York

Rev. Dr. Daniel Bliss  
West Newton, Massachusetts

\*Dr. Norman Burns  
Washington, D.C.

Peter R. Chase  
New York, New York

\*Frank C. Cook  
Los Angeles, California

\*Bertram C. Cooper  
\*\*Writer and Editor  
Washington, D.C.

\*\*Dr. Howard Cottam  
Washington, D.C.

\*Virgil C. Crippin  
Washington, D.C.

\*Dr. John H. Davis  
\*\*Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gerald Dorman  
New York, New York

Dahl M. Duff  
New York, New York

Rev. Edward L.R. Elson  
Washington, D.C.

\*\*Mrs. Jane Hart  
Washington, D.C.

\*Dr. Harry N. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

\*Col. Floyd M. Johnson  
Lorton, Virginia

Ribhi Kalla  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Stanley E. Kerr  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dayton S. Mak  
Washington, D.C.

James E. Lee  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

\*Dr. Laurence V. Michelmore  
\*\*Washington, D.C.

\*\*David G. Nes  
Baltimore, Maryland

Rev. Msgr. John Nolan  
New York, New York

\*\*Nestor C. Ortiz  
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. John Pendleton  
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Margaret Pennar  
New York, New York

Dr. M. Hadi Salem  
Hollywood, California

James F. Sams, Esq.  
Beirut, Lebanon

The Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre  
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Wafiya Shafey  
Miami, Florida

\*Hon. Evan M. Wilson  
\*\*Washington, D.C.

\*members of the Projects Committee  
\*\*members of the Executive Committee



**ANERA OFFICERS, 1974-75, (L. to R., back row) Dr. Laurence V. Michelmore, Vice Chairman; Nestor C. Ortiz, Vice Chairman; Sara C. Gentry, Secretary; (L. to R., front row) John P. Richardson, President; Dr. John H. Davis, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Joyce M. Stewart, Assistant Treasurer; Bertram C. Cooper, Treasurer. (Photo by Charles Cerf)**

**ANERA**  
900 Woodward Bldg.  
733 15th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

AMERICAN NEAR EAST  
REFUGEE AID, INC.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 43958  
Washington, D.C.

**Dr. John H. Davis**  
*Chairman of the Board  
Chief Executive Officer*

**Nestor C. Ortiz**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Laurence V. Michelmore**  
*Vice Chairman*

**John P. Richardson**  
*President*

**Bertram C. Cooper**  
*Treasurer*

**Sara C. Gentry**  
*Newsletter Editor*