



*Urgent*

## Deportees Not Forgotten!

It has been five months since 397 Palestinians were expelled to "no-man's land" in Southern Lebanon. The impact of their expulsion was felt all across the Holy Land. For example, communities across the West Bank and Gaza have experienced dramatic deterioration in their social and economical structure.

Furthermore, approximately 3000 dependents of the exiled men have been badly affected. More than 17 charities have lost their executives and key personnel, and the Islamic University in Gaza has lost 26 of its staff members. To make things worse, since the expulsion at least 3500 people have been arrested in the Occupied Territories. One hundred and thirty houses have been demolished, at least 40 people have been killed, hundreds were injured in clashes, and half of which were under the age of seventeen.

There is a mounting need for emergency funds to help ravaged families that have been affected by the absence of their supporters. The *HLF* acted timely to the needs of the exiled men and their families. It dispatched an envoy to Southern Lebanon along with a truck load of food, medicine, blankets and other essentials. Although many obstacles delayed this shipment to go through, it eventually did.

The *HLF* was the first relief organization to respond to this crisis. In December of 1992, more than 10,000 appeals were sent across the nation, which raised more than \$100,000 to provide emergency relief to the exiled men and their families.

The *HLF* has sent more than \$60,000 to 397 Palestinian deportees to provide them with daily needs and necessary food and medicine. On the other hand their families back home have received more the \$150,000 to help them overcome the hardship the expulsion has created.



In a phone call conversation with the deportees, they explained the health situation in *Marj Al-Zuhoor camp*. The camp consists of 397 men with ages ranging from 18 to 63 years old sharing 50 tents, eight men per tent.

There are ten cases of diabetes, 14 of high blood pressure, 17 with appendices and 7 with sever heart problems. Also, there are 40 to 60 daily cases of diarrhea, stomach aches, joint pains, respiratory problems and weather related diseases. The medicine needed to remedy these types of disease is insufficient, even antibiotics necessary to heal snake bites and flu are scarce.

Everyday the situation is getting worse, yet the deportees stated that their morals are high. They thank you for supporting them and wish you happiness and prosperity in this life and salvation in the day after.