



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

Press Release

United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly Visits Tripoli and Tours Nahr El-Bared Camp

Tuesday, 24 April 2012 – United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, visited Tripoli today on his first official visit. He met there with political representatives of the city to discuss the situation in Tripoli from a political, social and economic perspective. Mr. Plumbly also met with Sheikh Malek Shaar, Mufti of Tripoli and the North.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Plumbly toured the Palestinian camp of Nahr El-Bared with UNRWA colleagues to examine the conditions of the camp and the progress in the reconstruction process.

Below is a statement delivered by Mr. Plumbly during his visit to Tripoli:

“I am very pleased to be in Tripoli today on my first official visit. I just had an excellent meeting with Sheikh Malek El-Shaar, the Mufti of Tripoli and the North, who was kind enough to share with me some important insights into the history of the city and present challenges it faces.

As Lebanon’s second-largest city, Tripoli plays an important role in the country, on many levels. I am glad to have the opportunity today to deepen my understanding of political, social and economic issues affecting the city.

After my meeting with Mufti Shaar, I will be meeting a number of political representatives to discuss the political and security situation in Tripoli and the impact that broader local and regional developments may have on the city. I was deeply concerned by the incident that took place on Sunday 22 April in the Abi Samra area and welcome the role of local leaders and the security services in quickly restoring calm. Clearly it is important that the incident is fully investigated. It is vital that all concerned do everything that they can to sustain stability and security here.

Although it is my first visit here today, UN development agencies have offices and activities here and elsewhere in the North. The United Nations is keen to further build on this cooperation, which we hope serves the development and welfare of the citizens of the region.

Earlier this morning, I toured the Palestinian camp of Nahr El-Bared with some of our UNRWA colleagues. The main objective of that visit was to examine progress in the reconstruction process that is well underway but which still requires time. I also met with representatives of the Popular Committees in the camp who explained to me the conditions in the camp and the problems its residents continue to face. UNRWA is working with the Lebanese authorities and international donors to speed up the reconstruction process and ensure a smooth return of the refugees to their homes as soon as possible.

Thank you”

