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Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
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**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement Following Meeting with Caretaker Minister of Social Affairs
Mr. Salim Sayegh
Beirut, Lebanon**

Friday, 20 May 2010

Good Morning

I am very grateful for Minister Sayegh for receiving me today. We wanted to come to express our support for the Minister personally and also for his Ministry. We are very conscious of the work they do throughout Lebanon and very conscious of the efforts of the Minister recently with regards to the numbers of Syrian people displaced in northern Lebanon.

The United Nations, particularly the UN High Commission for Refugees, is working closely with the Ministry and with the Higher Relief Committee to see that the needs of the displaced population can be met.

I also want to praise the Lebanese people and particularly those in the Akkar region for showing their great humanity and great kindness to those in need. This is a very moving and welcome development.

The humanitarian situation I believe in Akkar is another reminder of why we need to see the formation of an early government in Lebanon. And I believe that an active government can follow the example of this ministry in addressing all the needs of the people in these difficult days.

Thank you very much.

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