

Save Lebanon

INCORPORATED



For Lebanese and Palestinian
Victims of War

STATEMENT

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During the past week we have been in daily contact with our Save Lebanon representatives in Beirut. They have kept us informed giving us their estimates of the magnitude of this new tragedy that has befallen the Palestinians and Lebanese in Sabra, Shatilla and the Bourj Barajni camps. They have also provided us with projections for immediate and long-term relief needs as a result of the current fighting.

It has been difficult for our contacts to give us precise figures for the number of casualties or to give us exact details of the extent of the physical destruction of the camps and their surrounding neighborhoods. This is because of a number of factors:

- Fighting continues unabated in all three camps. As late as 1:30 this morning, as I spoke with Beirut, we could hear shelling in the Sabra and Shatilla neighborhoods;
- Amal militia have severely restricted access to the camps. Relief efforts, therefore, have been frustrated as have efforts to assess damage and needs;
- Over the past 5 days Palestinian women and children have been leaving the camps. We have identified a number of areas where many hundreds of families have gathered in search of shelter (under the protection of Druze militia). Most Palestinian women and their families have not remained in one place. This has made both estimating relief needs and providing relief difficult. We are currently providing about 700 families in the area around the abandoned U.S. Embassy compound;
- While we are aware of the numbers of dead and wounded outside of the camps -- we have no way of accounting for the number of dead and wounded inside. We continue to receive reports that many of those wounded inside have died because of a lack of medical care. Since Palestinians are not being treated in most hospitals (and since some Palestinians have been killed seeking medical

