**Commentary from Michel Daher, MD, FACS**

**To REFLECTIONS- The meaninglessness of doing bioethics: Reality check from a conflict zone**

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I had the pleasure to be part of this workshop and to be a co-facilitator with my colleague and friend Aamir Jafarey, the author of this article full of emotions and reflections.

When I was asked by Dr. Niveen Abu-Rmeileh to meet and conduct this workshop on Ethical issues in conducting research in conflict zones, I didn’t hesitate, knowing that I will learn more than I teach from this experience. I thank Dr. Niveen for her commitment and for this great opportunity.

During the 2 days of the workshop, I had the opportunity to discuss with our colleagues coming from the West Bank, the Occupied Territories and the Gaza Strip about the difficulties they are living on a daily basis, under severe and chronic conditions of a siege. Many studies have reported that the residents experience physical and psychological insecurity linked to frequent military attacks, lack of jobs, failing economic situations, and lack of hope for a better life. The majority of Residents feel unhappy and unsatisfied with their lives.

After this interesting event and my return to my country, Lebanon, who is close to the Palestinian Territories, I had the same reflections as my colleague Aamer concerning the situation of Palestinians in Lebanon, and in other countries hosting Palestinian refugees since 1948.

Palestinians in Lebanon have been protracted refugees 70 years; they continue to face social and economic exclusion that hinders their ability to improve their living condition. And the more recent Syrian civil war has caused shocks that threaten to destabilize their already fragile livelihoods. Over a million and a half Syrian refugees and 42.000 Palestinians refugees from Syria have fled to Lebanon, adding pressure to already week infrastructure and labor market. The United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) the main provider of health, education, and relief services to Palestinian refugees is exceptionally strained. Pressures on UNRWA services come at a time when the organization is operating under a shortfall in funding.

I would like finally to document the need for solidarity between health professionals in the neighboring countries of Occupied Palestinians Territories and identify mecanisms predicting success of professional advocacy based on commitment to international justice.

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