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the un agency for
palestine refugees

وكالة الأمم المتحدة
لللاجئين الفلسطينيين

UNRWA and the EU launch young Palestinian photographers' exhibit

5 May 2011

Ramallah

UNRWA today announced the results of its 2011 photo competition for young Palestinian refugees. In a ceremony in Ramallah to launch an exhibit that will travel to Lebanon, Gaza and Jordan, EU Representative Christian Berger and UNRWA officials paid tribute to the photographic talent of the winners.

Organised by UNRWA and the EU along the theme "What you don't know about my life", the competition was open to Palestinian refugees aged between 18 and 26 in all of the UN agency's fields of operation: Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. Young Palestinian refugees were invited to create a series of five photos that would give the viewer an insight into their life; the corners of their house, the alleys of their refugee camp, or the bustle of the town where they live.

Speaking at tonight's ceremony, UNRWA Director of External Relations and Communications Magnus Lindell explained that the aim of the competition was to give a voice to the refugees served by UNRWA; to enable them to speak to the world about their lives, their dreams and aspirations, and to remind the world that they are still here.

All photo essays were judged by a panel compiled of professional photographers, UNRWA staff, and head of the photography department at Bir Zeit University, Rula Halawani. Having deliberated over nearly 100 entries from throughout the region, the panel awarded the first prize to Hadeel Al Ramli from Gaza, for her portrayal of life in a womens' prison in Gaza. Other prize-winners included photo essays from the Yarmouk and Aida refugee camps, in Syria and the West Bank.

The Ramallah exhibit, at Al Halaj gallery, is open to the public and will run until May 19. The exhibit will travel throughout the next month to Gaza City, Amman and Beirut.

Winners

1st place: Hadeel Al Ramli, Gaza

2nd place: Khoulood al Ajarma, Aida camp, Bethlehem

3rd place: Abdel Rahim Abu Laban, Yarmouk camp, Syria

Honourable mentions

Wisam Salameh, Gaza

Rushdi Al Sarraj, Tel Al Hawwa, Gaza

Bilal al Talawi, Khan Younis, Gaza

About UNRWA

UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 4.8 million registered Palestine refugees in the region, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict.

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