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Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Press releases

Sub-committee on the Middle East

First part of the visit in Jordan and Palestine

6-9 April 2013

07/04/2013

Political Affairs and Democracy

Josette Durrieu: 'Jordan needs our support in receiving the Syrian refugees on its territory'

"Jordan urgently needs the support of the international community in order to cope with the immense necessities of the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees whom it harbours on its territory. Merely fulfilling the basic needs of the 140,000 Syrian refugees placed in the Za'atri camp, which our delegation visited, costs a million dollars a day. And over 2 000 new refugees are arriving at Za'atri every day," Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), Chair of the Assembly Sub-Committee on the Middle East, declared today after their visit to Jordan on 6 and 7 April.

"In the troubled Middle East, Jordan remains a stable country and, while a good number of reforms have been undertaken by the authorities, many others are still called for," she added. "In this context, and with the region destabilised by the Israeli-Palestinian problem and the conflict in Syria, the international community needs a stable Jordan," Ms Durrieu concluded.

During its visit, the delegation was received in Amman in a private audience by King Abdullah II. It met the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speaker of the House and the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Jordan, representatives of the political parties and the diplomatic community, and visited the Za'atri camp for Syrian refugees with the UNCHR.

The delegation is continuing its visit until Tuesday in the Palestinian Territories with meetings in Ramallah with the Palestinian President, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Prisoners, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, the chief negotiator of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian delegation to PACE, NGOs and diplomatic representatives. The delegation is also to visit the Beit Eil settlement and the Am'ari camp for Palestinian refugees, together with the Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

During these visits, Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), rapporteur on the Middle East, and Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL), rapporteur on evaluation of the Partnership for Democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council, will gather material for the preparation of their respective reports.

The sub-committee plans a similar visit to Israel shortly.

08/04/2013

Political Affairs and Democracy

'The goal of peace requires the rapid resumption of negotiations,' says Josette Durrieu in Ramallah

"The goal of peace requires the rapid resumption of negotiations," said Josette Durrieu (France, SOC), who chairs the PACE Sub-Committee on the Middle East, currently visiting the Palestinian Territories. "In the short term, the Palestinians must be able to hold presidential and parliamentary elections by the end of 2013," Mrs Durrieu added.

In Ramallah, the sub-committee met, in particular, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the chief negotiator of the Palestinian Authority Saeb Erekat, and the Commissioner for National Relations Azzam Al-Ahmad. A similar visit will shortly take place in Israel.

09/04/2013

Middle East

PACE Middle East sub-committee appeals to Israel to avoid tragedy in the case of Samer Isawi

The members of PACE's Sub-committee on the Middle East, currently visiting the Palestinian Territories, have learned with great concern that due to the hunger strike of Mr Samer Isawi, his life is in danger.

"We make an urgent appeal to the Government of Israel to urgently review the situation and, in a humanitarian spirit, to do their utmost to avoid another tragedy in prison," the members of the sub-committee said.