



Address By

His Excellency Ghanim bin Fadhul Al Buainain

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Kingdom of Bahrain

**Berlin Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation – Supporting
Stability in the Region**

Berlin,

October 28, 2014

Your Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Minister of Foreign Affairs– Federal Republic of Germany,

Your Excellency Dr. Nabil Al Arabi, Secretary-General, of the League of Arab States,

Honorable attendance,

I am immensely pleased to take part in this high-profile international conference, which is devoted to discuss the Syrian Refugee Crisis and to support the stability of the region.

At the beginning, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany for organizing this conference, which comes to complement other international efforts that have been made during the past three years to address the issue of Syrian refugees. I equally value the Federal Republic of Germany's efforts and its constant support for the Syrian refugees, including its host of thousands of them on its territory.

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

The Kingdom of Bahrain has accorded the issue of the Syrian refugees a great deal of interest, and in line with the directives of the high leadership, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on the need to provide all forms of support for the Syrian refugees, the Royal Charity Organization has implemented, in cooperation with UNICEF, a number of projects in support of the Syrian refugees, including the digging of a number of water-wells in Al Zarqa Province in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at the cost of 800 thousand dollars, to provide pure potable water to the Syrian refugees.

In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain has built an educational complex which includes four schools in Al Zaatari Camp in Jordan, which offers full educational services to more than 9000 students, and has graduated the first batch of students last June, after having completed their high school studies. Furthermore, the Royal Charity Organization has built the Bahrain housing Complex which shelters over 3000 Syrian refugees.

The Royal Charity Organization has also established partnership relations and cooperation with a number of international organizations concerned with refugees, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF).

Moreover, there is a permanent cooperation and coordination between the Kingdom of Bahrain and a number of countries that receive Syrian refugees in order to help these countries in meeting the needs of these refugees in the host countries.

Your Excellencies,

The winter season is approaching and the refugees are still suffering from many problems, namely shelter, healthcare, education and others. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for more concerted efforts to alleviate the suffering of more than three million refugees and internally displaced persons, which also numbered about six million displaced persons scattered across various cities and provinces in Syria.

In this context, I have but to commend the efforts being exerted by Syria's neighboring Countries, mainly Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq to accommodate the huge influx of refugees.

I should not, either, forget to express my thanks and appreciation to the State of Kuwait, for the great efforts it has made in support of the issue of the Syrian Refugees, through the two international donor conferences it hosted in 2013 and 2014.

Finally, I am all hope that this conference will turn a success and will ease the sufferings of the Syrian refugees, but I would also like to say that the most effective and radical solution to the crisis of the Syrian refugees lies in seeking a political settlement that would lead to the formation of a Interim Ruling Body, with executive powers, in calling on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and order cease-fire in Syria as stipulated in the Arab plan that aims to end the Syrian crisis adopted by the Arab League since the outbreak of events in Syria in 2011. I hope coordination is held between the European Union and the Arab League to adopt this plan and end the crisis through political track.

In the same context, I hope the efforts, being exerted by UN Special Envoy to Syria Mr. De Mistura, will meet success so that we could see the Syrian refugees returning to their homeland and stability and security restored in Syria and the region as a whole.

Thank you ...