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UN HABITAT
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PRESS RELEASE
To Support Displaced Youth from Fallujah
Inauguration of Temporary Premises of Fallujah University (Dorms and Classrooms)
in Abu Ghraib, Baghdad

On 23 June 2016, the temporary premises of Fallujah University, located inside the Veterinary College, Baghdad University in Abu Ghraib, were inaugurated. With the generous contribution from the Government of Japan, the temporary premises of Fallujah University were established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) providing 25 classrooms and 128 residential units that can accommodate 512 students, in addition to basic site infrastructure and an administration building. The project aimed at supporting displaced youth who bear enormous and long-lasting human, social and economic costs.

His Excellency Mr. Sohaib Al-Rawi, Governor of Anbar, who attended the event, commented that while the Anbar Governorate has been supporting institutions displaced by violence outside and within Anbar, including Fallujah University, the ongoing financial crisis has affected all aspects of people's lives and limited the government's capacity to support. The Governor acknowledged the efforts of UN agencies and the ongoing support of UN-Habitat on housing self-repair and shelter projects within Ramadi. He expressed his gratitude to all those who stand with people of Iraq, and specifically of Fallujah, in the midst of the hardship they face.

On UN-Habitat's side, Dr. Erfan Ali, Head of Iraq Programme, pointed out that lack of access to education among youth is one of the key factors that fuel a cycle of poverty, hopelessness and frustration. He expressed his hope that these new premises of Fallujah University will enable young women and men from Fallujah to continue their education and play an active role as agents of positive and constructive change.

Mr. Hirofumi Miyake, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in Iraq, stated that Japan also has its own internally displaced persons, resulting from disasters of tsunamis, earthquakes, debris, and the latest nuclear accident, and therefore the people of Japan understand very well the importance of support to displaced persons in Iraq. He further emphasized that Japan will continue to sustain the efforts of UN-Habitat to improve the living conditions of the displaced persons in Iraq.

Dr. Ibraheem Abdulkareem, Deputy President of Fallujah University, stated that the completion of the new premises of Fallujah University has provided a glimpse of hope in the heart of displaced students, and he recognized that the inauguration is concomitant to the liberation of Fallujah.

On his part, Mr. Sattar Nawroz Khan, General Director of Migration at the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, praised the joint cooperation and partnership between multiple actors, including the

Governments of Iraq and Japan, Anbar Governorate, Fallujah University, and UN-Habitat, that enabled the positive results of the overall project.

This project was implemented within the framework of larger programme titled “Humanitarian Support to Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq through Provision of Durable Shelter,” funded by the Government of Japan, aiming to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons in Iraq through the provision of prefabricated durable shelters, and thereby to support and strengthen their self reliance.

For further information, please contact:

Alan Miran

Media Outreach Assistant, UN-Habitat

Email: alan.miran@unhabitatiraq.org

Mobile: + 964 750 342 7036

Website : unhabitat.org/iraq

Facebook : facebook.com/unhabitatiraq

Twitter : twitter.com/UNHabitatIRAQ