



PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of the United States of America in Damascus

Tel: 963-11-339-1000 Fax: 963-11-332-1456 Web: <http://damascus.usembassy.gov/>

U.S. Supports School Renovations in Syria

Damascus, November 5, 2009

This week, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Charles (Chuck) Hunter participated in the inauguration of two American-funded school renovation projects in Syria. On October 29, he presented remarks at a ceremony marking the completion of a U.S.-funded International Rescue Committee (IRC) project renovating 10 Damascus-area schools serving both Syrian children and Iraqi refugee children. The IRC project also included tutoring programs for select students. On November 3, Mr. Hunter participated in the opening of the newly renovated Ein Karem School in the UNRWA camp in Dara'a. The Ein Karem School now features safe, well-equipped classrooms with specialized space for science, computer, and music classes.

The U.S. government and the American people are committed to helping meet the needs of Iraqi and Palestinian refugees in the region. The Obama Administration supports the Iraqi people in their efforts to obtain lasting security, dignity, and justice. President Obama is also actively working to achieve a two-state solution in the broader context of a durable and comprehensive peace in the region. The U.S. is UNRWA's largest bilateral donor and contributed \$267 million to the organization this year.

During the events in both Damascus and Dara'a, Mr. Hunter recognized and thanked the Syrian people and government for hosting refugees.