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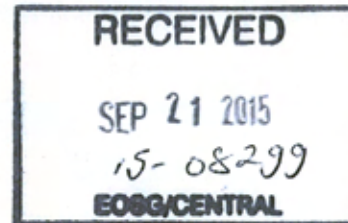
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HARRIS MOHD. SALLEH

14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
United Nations Headquarters,  
New York, NY10017,  
U.S.A.



Dear Your Excellency,

**SOLUTION FOR THE REFUGEE PROBLEM**

I am a former Chief Minister for the State of Sabah, Malaysia, and I feel moved to write to you to express my admiration for your leadership and empathy in trying to solve the problem of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing into Europe. Prior to the present influx I had been following reports on the regular stream of refugees from Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and elsewhere with growing concern and sadness at the lack of concerted effort to solve the problem.

Encouraged by your positive statements, I have prepared and attached an outline paper on what I feel would be the best means to help would-be refugees and potential host countries.

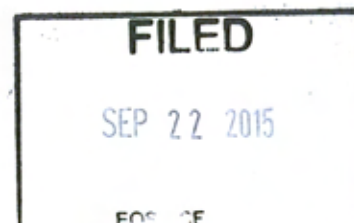
Your Excellency will note that:

- The refugee problem is the creation of the US interventionist policies
- The United Nations should be the body to organise the resettlement of refugees
- The United Nations can lease land to be developed as new growth areas; there are plenty of vacant land suitable for agriculture in many parts of the world
- The leased land should be under the UN administration who can issue travel documents to those living there
- The United Nations can raise USD10 billion to USD20 billion for the resettlement schemes. These amounts are not big compared to the ongoing cost of containing the refugee problem. Developed as growth areas, the resettled land will also generate economic returns.

I am addressing this letter also to French President H.E. François Hollande and German Chancellor H.E. Angela Merkel.

Yours sincerely,

HARRIS MOHD SALLEH



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## REFUGEE SETTLEMENT AREAS

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### INTRODUCTION

The refugee problem is created by countries in turmoil, whether arising from cruel leadership, internal fighting, or invasion by another country. The present flood of refugees making their way into Europe is clearly the outcome of the US acting as the world's policeman; in the name of pursuing global peace, the US's unwelcome interventions in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, and others have destabilized them.

Before the US military invasion these countries were stable. Iraq was stable under Saddam Hussein; Libya was stable under Muammar Gaddafi; Syria and other Middle Eastern countries were also stable despite being under dictatorships. The numbers of people killed by Saddam Hussein or Muammar Gaddafi were much lower compared to the killing that resulted from the US invasion. The US had also destroyed the fabric of their societies and infrastructure, setting them back by at least one or two generations.

The so-called interventions by the United States are repeats of the First World War, when British and other European Countries destroyed Turkey and the Ottoman Empire.

Those looking back will agree that had there been no military invasion by the United States in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and other Middle Eastern countries they would still be stable; the ISIS problem would not be with us. Iraq could easily be the most developed country in the Middle East.

The burden to help the refugees on humanitarian grounds has now fallen upon the European countries particularly Germany and France, while the United States seems to be oblivious to the disaster they have caused.

### REFUGEES

The wave of refugees has started and will continue to flood Europe. The number will increase as the days go by. Those braving their way across Europe are now doing so more for economic reasons rather than political persecution. Other than the economy, those leaving for an unknown future are driven out by the deplorable conditions in their home countries that are poorly run and badly managed, especially economically.

While the United States, the creator of the chaos, has chosen to keep quiet, the Europeans led by Germany and France are taking care of the influx of refugees. The people of the world must salute Madam Angela Merkel, the Germany Chancellor and French President François Hollande for urging their fellow Europeans to take care of the thousands and thousands of refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTION**

Regardless of what is being done or going to be done, it looks as if the refugees will continue to come to Europe, because it is wealthy, enjoy good government and is the nearest to their countries of origin. Therefore it is necessary to find a solution on how to reduce the influx of refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

Briefly the solution can be carried out as follows:-

### **A. THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD TAKE LEADERSHIP**

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) should take over the management of the refugees in terms of financing and management.

### **B. THE UNHCR SHOULD LEASE VACANT LANDS FOR RESETTLING THE REFUGEES**

The UNHCR should take out 99-year leases on vacant land of between 10,000 to 100,000 hectares from countries in the Middle East and Africa. (This is nothing new - the British, Americans, French and Germans leased lands from China a few hundred years ago). There are millions of hectares of empty land in Africa and in the Middle East suitable for agriculture.

These lands should be developed into New Growth areas complete with commercial and agriculture facilities.

### **C. THE UN SHOULD ISSUE PASSPORT TO THE REFUGEES**

The United Nations can issue passport to resettled refugees; when any country need workers, these people will be allowed to migrate to the country that need workers.

### **D. THE PROPOSED SOLUTION IS IN LINE WITH GLOBAL ASPIRATIONS**

The solution proposed above is in line with the world and United Nations charters for fair and just living for every human being on earth.

### **E. GROWTH AREAS**

These growth areas can become models for developing countries.



## **F. MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS FROM GROWTH AREAS**

The world is facing increasing shortage of food as more land is used up for development or agriculturally destroyed through exploitation for natural resources. Therefore, most of these growth areas should be developed into agricultural farms focusing on agro-based products or fresh fruits and vegetables that can be marketed especially to Europe and the Middle East.

## **THE BENEFITS**

There are many benefits to the world, the United Nations, the countries of origin of the refugees and the host countries. These benefits are:

1. It will eventually reduce the number of refugees, especially to Europe.
2. It will result in organized settlements and productive schemes, objectives that the world and United Nations have tried to carry out since the inception of the United Nations. This is also in line with the proposal made in 1925 by President Wilson of the United States who strongly believed that the United Nations should be given more power and responsibilities.
3. The New Growth areas or settlement will become working models for developing countries – at least 50% more of the people of developing countries are still living in poverty.
4. The day will come when almost every human being around the world will enjoy good living standards.

Of course there are many other benefits from the proposed exercise.

## **FUNDING**

There is no problem about funding. A United Nations sponsored project such as the proposed settlement scheme for refugees can easily get contributions from China, France, Japan, Germany, Middle East countries, the United Kingdom, the United States, and others.

With a budget of US\$20 billion, over one million refugees can be settled in the resettlement areas.

It is expected that these growth areas or settlements will be self-financing by the 4<sup>th</sup> years of operation.

## CONCLUSION

This paper outlines the needs for organized settlements to receive the influx of refugees. This will also lessen the burden of European Countries to accommodate these refugees. It is hoped that Germany and France can initiate this proposal. The current tragedy presents an opportunity for the world to develop new areas, providing employment and hope for the refugees.

With the leadership of the Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, German Chancellor H.E. Angela Merkel, French President H.E. François Hollande and other forward-looking leaders, the resettlement of refugees can be carried out and thus achieve the long-term global aspirations of a fair and just living conditions for all.



**HARRIS MOHD.SALLEH**

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.  
9 September 2015