

The Syrian Refugees and World Refugee Day

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Introduction :

In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly decided that 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day. On this day the sufferings of the refugees around the world is highlighted as a way to raise more awareness about this issue and in order to provide more support and care for them. Syria has become today, due to the daily shelling with deadly and destructive ballistic missiles and barrel bombs in addition to the sexual abuse that the Syrian regime uses widely as a weapon of war, the world's largest exporter of refugees. Therefore, we are going to shed light on the most notable difficulties that Syrian refugees are facing.

The number of Syrian refugees is no less than 3.96 million according to SNHR's latest updates; more than 50% are children, 35% women, and 15% men.

Many Syrian refugees have not been registered by UNHCR so they are not included in their numbers. This is because a lot of the Syrian refugees have escaped through illegal means out of fear that other countries will not take them in, there also others who are living with their relatives.

The Syrian refugees are distributed among the neighboring countries as follows:

Lebanon has the largest portion of Syrian refugees after thousands have fled away from the sectarian cleansing in Banyas and Al-Bayda and from the cruel battles in Al-Qusayr in western Homs countryside and most recently Al-Qalamoun in Damascus countryside.

Lebanon: no less than 1.4 million Syrian refugees including 475,000 children and 180,000 women at least.

27% of them (around 260,000) have no identification papers.

Turkey: no less than 945,000 Syrian refugees including 200,000 children and 120,000 women At least.

62% of them (around 487,000) have no identification papers.

Jordan: no less than 820,000 including 250,000 children and 185,000 women at least.

36% of them (around 263,000) have no identification papers.

Iraq: no less than 525,000 including 160,000 children and 50,000 women at least.

The numbers of Syrian refugees in Iraq have increased recently with the ongoing clashes in the Northeastern areas and Iraqi Kurdistan taking in tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.

Egypt: no less than 270,000 including 120,000 children and 75,000 women. The Syrian refugees have been greatly suffering from mistreatment since the military coup which led to the arbitrary expelling of more than 3000 Syrian refugees without any consideration for their rights, many of those refugees were children and women. We have already recorded many cases where Syrian refugees have been expelled to Maghreb countries by the Egyptian authorities without letting them even take their luggage: at least 40,000 Syrian refugees.

Most notable difficulties :

Education: approximately, one-fourth of the Syrian children refugees, who are about 1.3 million children in total, have been out of school for more than a year. The ratio varies from one country to another; more than 40% of school and university students in Jordan haven't continued their education which is the highest percentage among all hosting countries. We are facing an educational disaster the effects of which will be seen for generations.

Food: malnutrition have spread widely among the Syrian refugees. The lack of safe-drinking water among Syrian refugees have become very frequent, the Syrian refugees In Lebanon suffers the most from food issues according to the latest report published by UNICEF there on 2 June, 2014. The children, especially the little ones, are increasingly facing problems that will affect their bodies and minds on the long-run.

Medicine: the Syrian refugees who haven't been registered by UNHCR are facing great difficulties in getting medical care because of its high cost while those who have been registered face such problems when their UNHCR paper expires. However, renewing this paper need a long period of time that may exceed two months.

Racism: many Syrian refugees have been threatened by Syrian regime supporters which was mostly in Lebanon as the current Hezbollah's government supports the Syrian regime based on ethical reasons. In Egypt, the Syrian refugees was the subject of media campaigns that attacked their honor, many TV show hosts have publically threatened the Syrian refugees on TV without any respond by the Egyptian authorities that even harassed thousands of them, expelled no less than three thousand Syrian refugees, and passed a law that requires the Syrians to get a visa to enter Egypt which wasn't required in the past. Furthermore, there are tens of Syrian refugees that are still arrested inside Egyptian prison to this moment. In Turkey, some Syrian refugees have been threatened specifically in Syrian regime-supporting cities like Antakya for instant.

Camps: SNHR noticed disparities between the international standards and the present camps especially regarding the required amount of water for drinking and bathing and the numbers of toilets and the required minimum distance in between.

Recommendations :

First: The International Community should address the root of this problem and the main reason that forced them to flee from their countries which is the daily killing, shelling, destruction, and sexual abuse at the hands of the Syrian regime.

Second: Aids for IDPs, which are more than 6.4 million, should be increased which will reduce refuging. In that context, investigations should be conducted regarding the looting and corruption acts that we talked about continuously by the Syrian regime in coordination with international players in Syria as it transferred more than 90% of the aids to supporting areas. Those who are involved should be held accountable and charged with stealing the money of the starving Syrian people.

Third: Aiding countries should support the national organizations that are well-known for their honesty and hard work which will insure that more in-need Syrian refugees will get what they deserve.

Fourth: The International Community should respect its financial and logistic commitments in regard to the Syrian refugee's case. It should rather increase it considering the huge monthly increase in the number of Syrian refugees.