

## The Syrian Refugees at the Jordanian Borders

15000 Syrians are stuck at the border crossings with Jordan  
3000 displaced in the middle of the desert at Ar-Rwayshed border crossings

Ar-Rwayshed border crossing is considered an unofficial crossing and it was named after the same name of the border city of Ar-Rwayshed in Jordan and located in a desert area away of cities and services which is an extension of Al-Lujah desert and As-Swaydah governorate in South Syria.

SNHR team talked with survivors who entered the Jordanian Kingdom via Ar-Rwayshed crossing and talked about the suffering. Thousands are still waiting under high temperatures that reach sometimes 45 C.

No day passes without documenting no less than ten barrel bombs in different areas in Daraa governorate; these indiscriminate bombs, thrown from high levels that reach five thousands meter sometimes, result in death and homes destruction where at least one-fourth of the houses in Daraa re destroyed partially or completely. This barbarian indiscriminate shelling is the reason behind the continuous increase in the numbers of refugees and IDPs.

### **Fadel Abdulghany, Head of SNHR, says:**

“The International Community, represented by UN Security Council, should solve the problem radically, not only by delivering aids to refugees and IDPs. This crisis should end and not be managed. Protecting civilians from killing and displacing can be achieved by ending the barrel bombs and missiles shelling. This is the Security Council duty and only it can do this. However, the Security Council is either incapable of solving the crisis or unwilling to do so. The humanitarian crisis in Syria is only getting bigger with increasing medication, food, shelter, and education shortages.”

After the Jordanian authorities closed Nasib and Tal Shehab border crossings as it only letting humanitarian cases and aids pass, Ar-Rwayshed became the only route for the refugees to escape the hell that the daily shelling is.



A group of pictures to some IDPs on Ar-Rwayshed crossing

### **IDPs arrive at the crossing via two main routes:**

**First:** IDPs must pass through roads containing checkpoints affiliated to government forces and popular committees which is very risky with all the sniping, arresting, and kidnapping. Many similar cases have been documented.

**Second:** IDPs must walk on their feet through rough areas for periods vary between 4 to 8 hours, which is more preferable for residents as it is less dangerous because there are no government forces. After the residents arrive at the borders, they stand in lines to write down their names and wait to be allowed to enter for periods of times that reach sometimes 20 days. Here is the core of crisis, because the area is deserted and has high temperatures. It also lacks any life necessities such as communication, medical care, or food which puts the lives of thousands of people under serious danger.

After waiting for a long time, some refugees gets allowed to pass to the first point, which is a military base affiliated to the Jordanian Borders Guards before they are being transferred to the second point which contains some tents where their personal information get recorded. Afterwards they are transferred again by buses to the security square, and then to Azraq camp. Starting approximately 20 days ago, the Jordanian authorities halted the entering completely. which caused the gathering of about 3000 people, who



Picture of Mr.Jada'an Mohammad Turki

are facing huge dangers and difficulties. Mr. Jada'an Mohmmad Turki, from Idlib governorate, thirsted to death on 7 July 2014 after he had to walk more than 45 km distance in Ar-Rwayshed desert trying to reach the crossing.

### **SNHR was able to reach Mr. M. H., one of the refugees who passed through Ar-Rwashed point, and he gave us his testimony:**

“I’ve entered the Jordanian lands via Ar-Rwayshed crossing months ago. It was tough and tiring times for me and my family in every stage. In the beginning, we’ve waited on the border crossing, and then we were allowed to pass to the first point. After five days we’ve entered to the second point and there was no mobile signal. I’ve written down my name and my family names for the Border Guards and they gave us a food meal and a small bottle of water. We’ve waited seven days until my turn with my family came to pass this point. It was really hot, and my seven-month-old baby girl got sick without any doctor around, but a small dispensary with two nurses. The provided medicines to the limited to some pain killers and hypnotics. Sometimes, when somebody has severe illness, the border guards aid him. In addition, youths are not allowed to enter; only families are”.

### **Mr. M. Gh. has given his testimony to SNHR about his experience being a refugee:**

“I’ve sent my family through the short road passing As-Swaydah villages as I was afraid that they would get tired if they went through the rough deserted route, but the people committees’ checkpoint prevented them from passing and forced them to go back. For me, I’ve suffered a lot during my trip to pass through the rough desert road and I’ve waited there for 15 days, but the border guards didn’t allow me to pass under the pretext that I’m single without my wife and children. We came back home and we live under the daily fear of death under shelling”.



A group of pictures to some IDPs on Ar-Rwayshed crossing

In addition to all of that, and though the Jordanian authorities of closing Tal Shehab and Nusayb crossings about six months ago, there are no less than 12 thousands IDPs live in the near area of the crossing and in many border villages next to it, waiting the opening of these crossings as they fear to go back to their houses because of the daily killing and shelling. On the other side, they fear to go to Ar-Rwayshed crossing which is far about 250 km.

#### **Four: Attachments and Evidences:**

One of the rough roads taken by IDPs to reach Ar-Rwayshed crossing

A group of pictures to some IDPs on Ar-Rwayshed crossing



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### **Recommendations:**

Jordan has welcomed the Syrian refugees in general, and the continuance of the refugees' flowing is becoming overwhelming. But that shouldn't prevent it from keeping the borders opened always. On the other side, donor governments should respect its financial commitments, as indicated by UNHCR repeatedly.

EU countries and USA should help the hosting countries, and provide serious facilitations to accept more refugees.