



Kurdish-Majority Syrian Democratic Forces must Open Rajm Al Slibi Checkpoint Crossing 2000 Civilians at least are Stuck in the Desert

Since ISIS was founded on 9 April 2016, the group has managed to take over wide areas in Deir Ez-Zour, Al Raqqa, Al Hasaka, and Aleppo governorates. We have been regularly monitoring the violations committed by ISIS against civilians in their areas of control such as killing, arresting, and undermining the daily basic social, religious, and cultural aspects of their life.

Unless a civilian has a medical report or a written permission by the leadership of his or her respective area, ISIS's policy prohibits anyone from leaving or displacing the group's areas of control, which drove many civilian residents to seek alternative routes using dirt roads, where there are no military checkpoints for ISIS, to head for areas under the control of other parties, such as armed opposition-held areas, Syrian regime-held areas, or the Democratic Union Party and Syrian Democratic Forces that are practically affiliated with the Party, which might be a safer haven than ISIS's tight grip on all life aspects even though these attempts come with great risks such as being captured by ISIS members or stepping on one of the hundreds of landmines that ISIS planted.

Residents from Deir Ez-Zour governorate who want to flee the darkness of ISIS for the refugee camps in Turkey or to Damascus have to go north through Al Hasaka governorate as (Deir Ez-Zour - Damascus) road has been closed since the beginning of 2016 because of the ongoing clashes between ISIS and the Syrian regime forces. Additionally, (Homs – Al Suwayda' - Damascus) road is a desert dirt road where it would take more than 10 days to reach a camp for Syrian regime forces in Al Suwayda' where Syrian regime forces doesn't let anyone leave this camp without securing a sponsor from Damascus city. In light of all of this, there is almost no way available but the route shown in the map (This map is only for demonstrative purposes and doesn't reflect the roads that residents go through to reach the checkpoint) that go through Al Hasaka governorate leading to Al Houli camp in the eastern suburbs of Al Hasaka. The camp is 50 kilometers away from Al Hasaka city and houses no less than 15,000 civilians who are mostly IDPs from Iraq and Deir Ez-Zour.

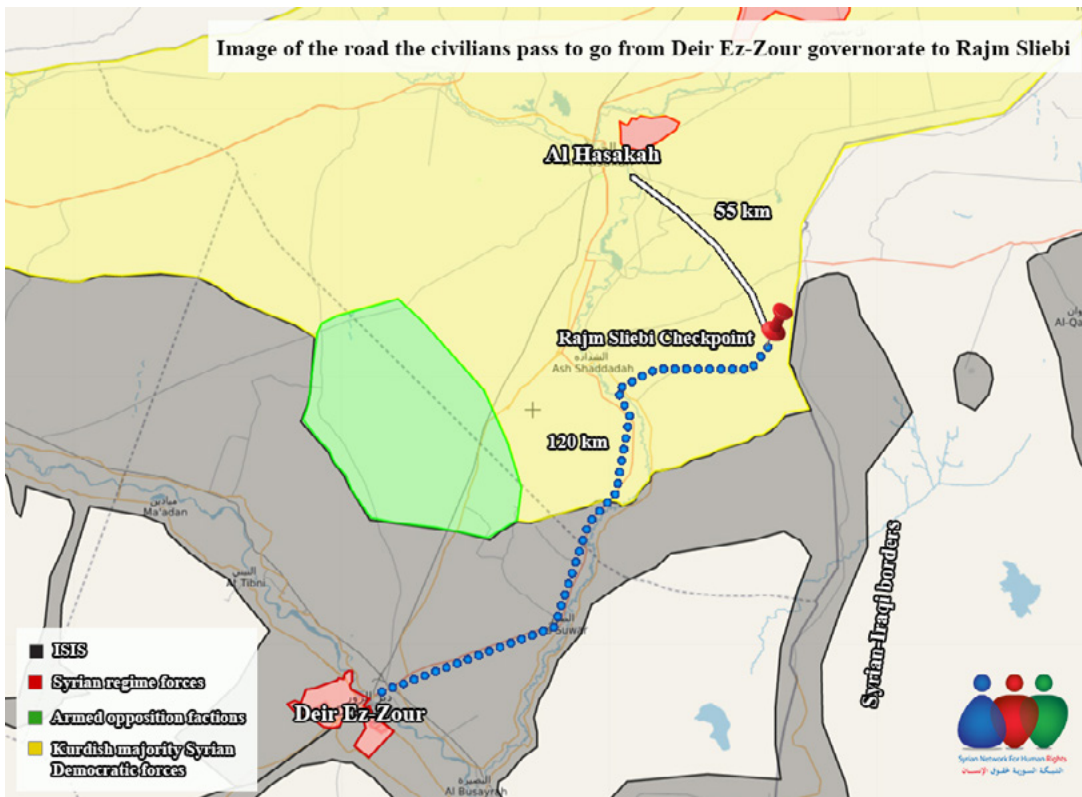




IDPs head for the camp to settle in or move to other areas like refuging in neighboring countries or heading for Al Hasaka city and then to Al Qamishli airport and to Damascus International Airport from there.

Democratic Union Party forces requires IDPs to secure a sponsor from Al Hasaka city. This decision went into effect in May 2015.

The following map illustrates the road that civilian use to get to Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint from Deir Ez-Zour governorate



Civilians stuck at Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint and deaths from sickness

Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint is a passing point from Deir Ez-Zour, as well as the Iraqi lands, to Al Houl camp which is under the control of the Democratic Union Party. The checkpoint is heavily armed. Since September 2016, the forces on the checkpoint have strictly prohibited any civilians from getting to Al Houl camp under the pretext of fearing that there might be ISIS fighters among the fleeing civilians. This led to no less than 2100 civilians, mostly women and children, being trapped at the checkpoint. Among the civilians trapped there are sick people.





After going through many difficulties, we have managed to get to some of the civilians who are at Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint and to media activists in Al Hasaka city who told us about extremely tragic and disastrous conditions these displaced people are experiencing. They are living out in nowhere in a desert area lacking the most basic necessities of life with no tents or sanitation supplies. In addition, food supplies are running out, and health care and personal hygiene are almost nonexistent. Furthermore, the lack of clean water led to the spread of diseases such as hepatitis, and the health of the sick people are deteriorating. We have recorded the death of the female child Mona Al Hussein due to a food shortage, and the death of Umama Al Sayyed, woman, due to lack of medication and medical care.

[Video](#) of some accounts by IDPs at Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint.

The Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces must allow the civilians who are trapped at Rajm Al Sliebi checkpoint to pass to Al Houl camp. Also, local and international relief organization have to work on delivering urgent aids to no less than 2100 civilians living under poor humanitarian conditions. The states supporting the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces have to apply pressure in order to compel the Syrian Democratic Forces to let the trapped pass.







