



Report on the Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Syria

A comprehensive documentary study

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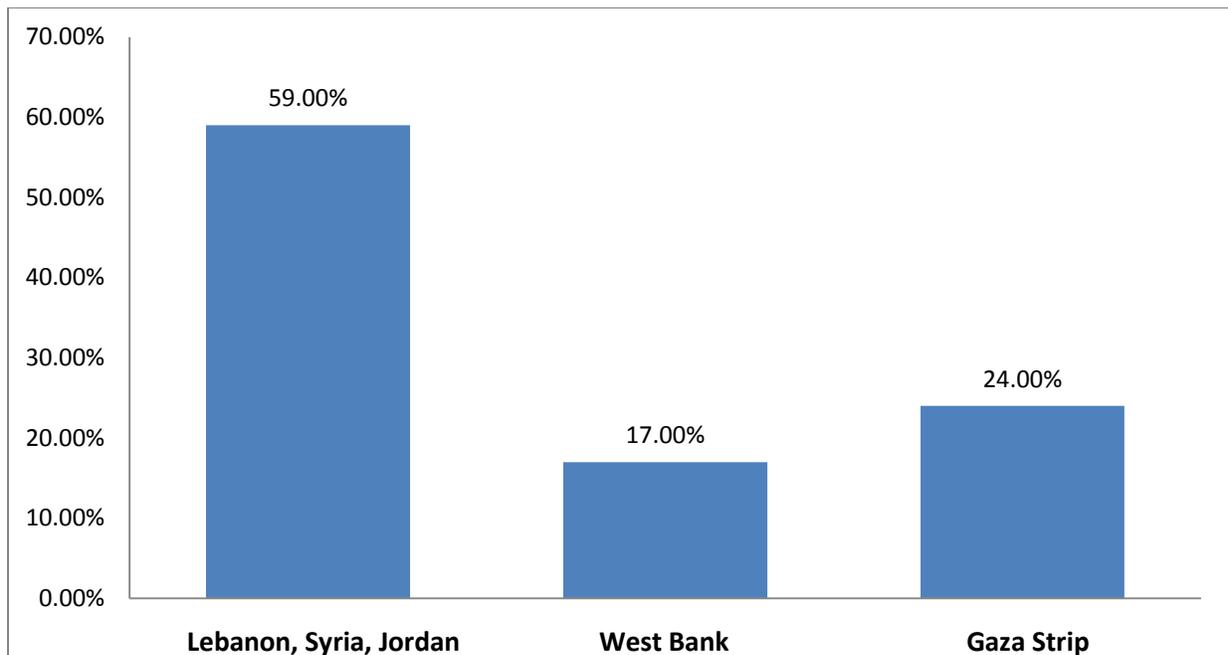
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Introduction

The Central Bureau of Statistics indicates that the number of the Palestinians all over the world by end of 2012 is at 11.6 million. This shows that the number of the Palestinians in the world has multiplied 8.5 times since the Palestinian Nakba in 1948. As for the number of the registered refugees by UNRWA; it reached 5.3 million by mid of 2013 which is about 45.7% from the overall Palestinian population in the world. A percentage of 59.0% are in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan while 17.0% in the West and Bank and 24.0% in the Gaza Strip.



Distribution of the Palestinian Refugees

Around 29% of Palestinian refugees dwell in 58 camps; 10 camps in Jordan, 14 camps in Syria (9 of which are recognized by UNRWA and the rest are still unrecognized), 12 camps in Lebanon, 19 camps in the West Bank and 8 camps in the Gaza Strip. Those estimates represent the minimum number of the Palestinian refugees, as there are still unregistered refugees. The estimated number of the Palestinians refugees including those displaced after 1949 till the beginning of the Six-Day War in 1967. UNRWA's definition of Palestinian refugee does not include those who became refugees following the 1967 six-day war.

This report highlights the conditions of Palestinian refugees living in Syria especially in light of the Syrian crisis which started as popular mass protests in 18/3/2011. The report detail their plight, conditions, legal status and other related issues either in Syria or the countries they fled to including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Sweden and Turkey.

This report is based on conclusions of paperwork presented in a special workshop held in November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop discussed the conditions the Palestinians refugees who live in Syria with leading experts and policy makers.

Part 1: Overview on Palestinian Refugees in Syria

Palestinians Refugees in Syria

The number of the Palestinian refugees in Syria in 1948 was estimated at 75000 to 85000. The majority of them came from northern Palestine, especially Safed and Tiberias and Haifa. According to the latest UNRWA statistics released in November 2013, the registered Palestinian refugees reached 564,691; 27% of them live in camps.¹

Additionally, extra waves of the Palestinian refugees came to Syria following the “Black September” in Jordan between 1971-1970 and some came from Lebanon after the Lebanon war in the 1980es. A few thousands of the Palestinians who were living in Iraq escaped to Syria in 2006. Those two segments are not registered with UNRWA, and their children and grandchildren have been living in Syria without any identification papers which allow them to work or to travel, compared to their fellow 1948 refugees.

The characteristics of the Palestinian community in Syria:

The community of the Palestinians refugees in Syria enjoys much more rights than all other Palestinian refugees’ communities in Diaspora including the following:

- Since the middle of 1950es, Palestinians have enjoyed all the civil rights given to the Syrian citizens; except political rights. Also, the Palestinian are not allowed to obtain the Syrian citizenship due to the special status of Palestinians refugees issue in the region. However, they are allowed work and occupy all governmental and private sector jobs without any discrimination from the Syrians. Palestinian refugee in Syria are allowed to own a single home for dwelling purposes.
- Children of Palestinian refugees living in the camps take their basic and primary education at the UNRWA schools. They also have the right to study at the public Syrian schools. As for secondary education; UNRWA doesn’t provide it and as result all refugee students go to Syrian public schools. UNRWA provides vocational training for refugees Damascus Training Centre (DTC).
- With regard to graduate and postgraduate study, Palestinian refugees receive equal opportunities like their Syrian counterparts. In recent years, in the year of 2010, tuition fees have been imposed on the Palestinian refugees who are not registered in the records

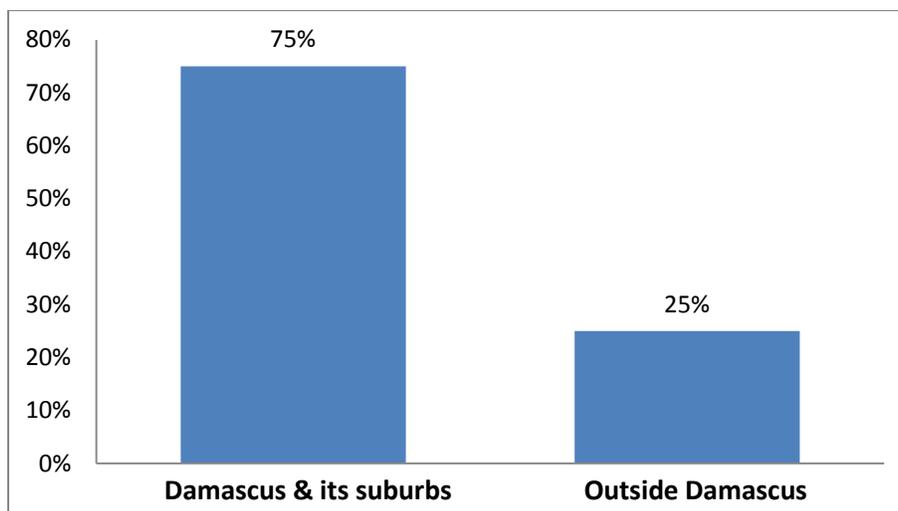
¹ The percentage of those living in the camps has decreased to the half. Whilst, others live in the superb of Damascus.

of the General Authority for the Palestinian Arab Refugees which is a governmental frame that belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. Normally, this includes Palestinian refugees who arrived from Lebanon and Jordan.

- Politically, in the recent years, Palestinian Institutions and factions have played a lesser role in shaping the refugees' awareness. With the lack of any alternative that can shape the understanding of refugees; the Syrian environment has had more effect. Therefore, they were affected by any action taking place in the surrounding environment, especially Syria is considered as one of the most important regional players and has a great impact on the Palestinian organizations actions.
- Socially, there have been thousands of marriages between Syrians and Palestinian refugees especially in the last two decades.
- The Palestinian cause is essential for the Syrian people. It has impacts on their minds and conscious, as Palestine is not free yet. Since the thirties of the past century, many Syrians from the coast fought in Palestine to defend it from the Zionist Para military groups prior the establishment of Israel. Despite their humble capacity, at the time, Syrians fought with the Salvation Army despite the fact they became newly independent from French Colonization. Thousands of Syrians died as they fought and joined Palestinian factions in Lebanon, Syria and others. This indicates that the Syrian environment and community has a deep connection with the Palestinian plight.

A map showing the distribution of the Palestinian communities in Syria:

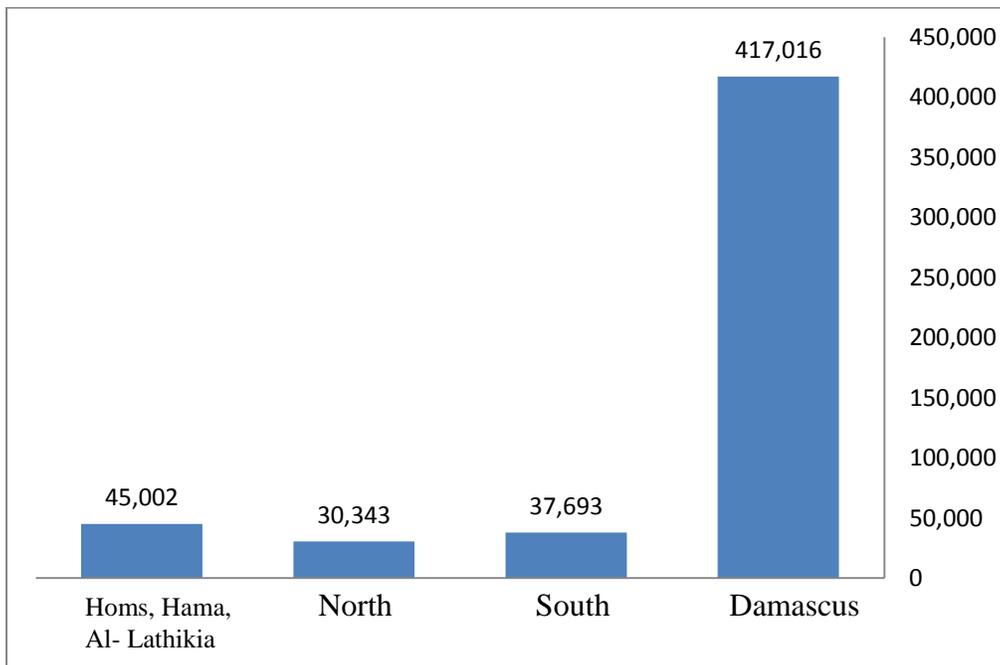
About 75 % of the Palestinians are concentrated in the surroundings of Syria and its suburbs, and nine UNRWA registered camps², providing them with various services. Adding to that, there are still five camps which UNRWA does not recognize.³



The distribution of the Palestinian refugees in Syria

A table showing distribution of the Palestinian refugees in Syria

Region's name	Damascus	The North	The South	Homs, Hama, & Latakia
The number of the refugees	417,016	37,693	30,343	45,002



Historical Overview

After the flight of Palestinians to Syria during and after the 1948 Nakba, six camps were opened to accommodate them. The camps are, Khan Eshieh near to Damascus, Al- Neirab near to Aleppo, and Al- A'adeen near to Homs. Those three camps were constructed in the year of 1948, while the other camps were constructed in 1950 such as Al- A'adeen Camp near to Hama, Daraa Camp in Daraa City, and Khan Danon Camp near Damascus. In an attempt to resettle Palestinian refugees, in 1954, another camp called Al- Ramdan Camp about 50 km east of the capital Damascus to host more refugees.

Following the 6-Day War known as "setback" in 1967, the UNRWA opened four new "Emergency" camps, which were named as Al-Sayda Zaynab, Germana, Daraa Emergency Camp, and Al- Sabena Camp which was constructed in 1968.

In addition to the previously mentioned camps, the Syrian government opened other camps run by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees but UNRWA however did not recognize them. One of these camps is, Al-Yarmouk Camp (established in 1954) the largest Palestinian camp, in Syria or in the Diaspora. Also, the government constructed- Raml camp in Al- Latakia city (1955-1956), Ein Al- Tal camp, Handrat camp, near to Aleppo (1962), and Al- Husaynia camp (1982).

Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Syria; Ramifications and Expected challenges

Syria has 13 refugee camps and 499,189 registered refugees.

Three of these camps are unofficial (*)

1948,	Sbeineh,	22,600
1949,	Khan Eshieh,	20,000
1948,	Neirab,	20,500
1949,	Homs (Al A'idin),	22,000
1948,	Jaramana camp,	18,658
1950,	Daraa camp,	10,000
1950,	Hama camp,	8,000
1950,	Khan Dannun,	10,000
1967,	Qabr Essit (Sayeda Zaynab),	23,700
1955-6,	Latakia Camp*,	10,000
1957,	Yarmouk*,	148,500
1962,	Ein el-Tal*,	6,000

Yarmouk Camp:

The camp was constructed between the years of 1953 and 1954, south to Damascus city and about 7 Km from its centre. It is considered the largest of the Palestinian camps, either in Syria or the Diaspora. Despite this fact, the camp is not recognized by the UNRWA but the agency has provided various services there. The camp is built on 2.1 square km and this size is annually increasing. According to 2013 formal statistics, the number of the Palestinian refugees in the camps is about 171,880 registered refugees formed by 44,279 families. Other unofficial statistics suggest that the number is approximately 220,000.

Currently, Yarmouk camp is suffering from a fatal blockade for more than 230 days to date of this report. The blockade is being imposed by the Syrian Arab Army, members of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - the General Leadership, and members from Fatah Al-Intifada. That blockade resulted in the lack of the essential supplies to the camp causing a massive flight from the camps leaving only 25,000.

From the beginning of the Syrian crisis up to this report, the number of victims has reached 671. The majority of the camp residents are displaced to relatively close areas in Damascus city such as, Sanhanya, Germana, Kodsya, Kodsya superb, Dommor Al- Balad, Dommor's projecy, Al- Hama, Roken Addein, and Damascus's Old quarters. The UNRWA statistics indicate that 59.1% of the total Palestinian refugees who are displaced from Syria to Lebanon, numbering more than 51 thousand people, are from Yarmouk camp.

The blockade imposed on the camp started over 230 days ago, became tighter in July, 2013. It has turned from a partial blockade into a total closure. Also, the medical and foodstuff commodities were prevented from entering the camp with the total black out. As a result, the inhabitants witnessed severe conditions of drought, malnutrition, and anemia due to the lack of milk. The blockade affected the families to desperation pushed some of them to eat dogs and cats, grass, and the leaves of the trees. Up to this moment of writing this report, the death following from the siege reached 62, especially children and the elderly people. All attempts to end the blockade had failed.

Education came to a halt as UNRWA supervised schools were closed due to the serious security conditions. Alternatively, many local initiatives appeared and provided schooling for students. Those schools provided 2000 students with their education, by the virtue of some activists and teachers and with the support of some social and aiding institutions. Also, those schools had taken the recognition of the UNRWA.

Many initiatives were launched to solve the camp's plight and end the siege. In the early days of the siege, on 15 May, 2013, (the Naka Annual Memorial) a number of Palestinian activists, in and outside the camp, established several initiatives to tackle the blockade by calling families to protest at the entrance of the camp. However, this attempt had failed after opening live fire against the protestors.

On 10 February, 2013 The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) sent a delegation to Syria, headed by Dr. Zakariya Al- Aghaa, in an attempt to negotiate with the Syrian regime, but this attempt had failed. Also, on 25 May, 2013, the delegation made another visit and met with a number of Syrian officials, but made no significant gains. On 9 Nov, 2013, the delegation repeated its visit, and again left Damascus without making any practical agreement, despite its president statements he will not leave Syria without solving Yarmouk crisis.

Later, the local NGOs in Yarmouk refugee camp released an initiative where all the militants would leave the camps and that the residents could then return back. As a result, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command provided an initiative which included its vision. Based on these initiatives a popular committee was formed in the camp to help reach an agreement to end the siege. After numerous meetings, an agreement was reached, and it stated:

- Withdrawal of the non- Palestinian armed groups from some areas in the camps.

- Full Withdrawal of non Palestinian armed groups from the camp.
- Settlements of the conditions of armed groups in the camp who are originally Palestinians from the camp.
- Removing of barriers, checkpoints etc so the residents can return to the camp again.

There had been some indications that the initiative in Yarmouk camp could succeed. A nominal amount of babies' milk and medicines was allowed in the camp via Commission for Reconciliation, in the hope that the terms of the agreement would be implemented in the next coming days after the withdrawal. However, the deal, like many other previous agreements, came to failure. Both parties exchanged accusations about who is responsible; however the main responsibility for the plight in the camps must lie with those who besiege the children, elderly and women in the first place.

Sadly, the PLO delegation visit to the Syria was considered a political cover when it has adopted the Syrian regime which justified the siege of the camp. This caused great anger in the Palestinian public opinion in Palestine and outside in Diaspora. The head of delegation, Ahmed Magdalene, was banned from making a speech at Beriziet University as a result of PLO stance. Hamas position was clarified in a press statement on 15-1-2014 which called on the regime to end the siege. During this period, several actions and protests were launched in and outside Palestine, especially in the European countries, to show support for the besieged people in the camp.

AL- Husaynia Camp:

It is the second largest community for the Palestinian refugees after Yarmouk camp. According to the statistics of UNRWA, the number of inhabitants at Al-Husaynia camp has reached 32.533 refugees, made up 7.687 families. But the number might be more than this. UNRWA's records only show those living in the camps and don't include those who came for refuge.

The majority of Jaramana camp's populations arrived to reside in Al-Husainya camp due to the re-planning and infrastructure schemes of their camp by Damascus governorate. Also, the some of the poor refugees in Yarmouk camp moved to live in Al- Husaynia to expand in the camp due to lack of spaces and need for home expansion.

The camp witnessed large devastating attacks and battles between the Syrian regime forces and the armed opposition forces. Later, of the General Command, Fatah Al-Intifada, and PLEP, controlled it once again on 11-10-2013.

It is worth mentioning that, up till now; residents of the camp are not allowed to return to their homes in the camp. This is despite the fact that the camp is empty and controlled by the regime. The number of the victims in the camp is about 95.

Jaramana Camp:

The camp is located 8 kilometers from the capital to the south-east on the way to Damascus International Airport. It is estimated that 5, 570 families live in the camp with total of 20,879 refugees. The camp was the largest Syrian camp, but a sharp decline in its population followed

due to re-planning changes that happened in the area. As a result, refugees moved to live Al-Husaynia where they lived in houses bought via long-term loans.

Jaramana camp accommodates nearly 5000 displaced families, especially those who came from Yarmouk camp, Al-Sayeda Zaynab, AL- Sabina and Al- Dyabiah. The camp has become a shelter for those refugees because it is relatively far away from the violent crisis in the country. This is due to the fact that minorities of Druze and Christians live in the area. Only a mortar shell fell in the area as it's close to Damascus Int. airport.

Sbeineh camp:

Sbeineh camp is located near the Syrian city of Sbeineh, 14 kilometers southern to Damascus. It is within an active industrial area and the sized of 27000 square meter, with a population of 26.487, made up of 6.431 families. Despite that the camp has been developed and re-planned, the life is characterized by Bedouin and tribal features.

The camp and Sbeineh town has always been considered a safe haven for all until an explosion of National Security premises on 18 July 2012. This affected the whole town of Al Sabina pushing them to take refugee at the camp. The camp has hosted all people whether they are Syrians or Palestinians living out of its borders.

By the beginning of 2013, the camp has been subjected to a severe siege on Damascus's southern part by the Syrian regime forcing its inhabitants to flee to the neighboring areas, such as Sahnaya and Al- Keswa., as well as Khan Eshieh and Khan Dannun camps. Due to the intensity of the siege, the refugees continued to escape the camp and now it's nearly empty due to heavy bombardments.

UNRWA statistics indicate that the proportion of Sbeineh camp refugees who fled to Lebanon reached 8.21% of the of the 51,000 that fled to Lebanon.

As the Syrian army controlled the area from the 7th of November 2014, around 80% of the camp was destroyed. This is based on statements of witnesses' from emergency and power company staff who managed to enter the camp. The southern entrance of the camp is partially damaged due to the bombings.

On 11 November 2013, the pro- regime groups from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command was allowed to enter the camp. Meanwhile the Syrian army controls the town. It was reported (not certain) that there are discussions at the moment to allow refugees to return to their homes and re-opening of the industrial estate in the area. Reopening of the industrial area could help attract residents and refugees back to the area as many of them use to work there. For the residents and refugees to return, there should be full-scale renovation and rebuilding of the infrastructure especially water, power and hygiene systems.

Qabr Essit (Sayeda Zaynab) camp:

The camp is populated mainly by refugees who belong to Al Shamlna tribe which was displaced from Palestine, Safd. The camp is subject to the factional dominance of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command and was constantly attacked by the opposition

forces. The camp is also located near Sayeda Zaynab Shiaa holy shrine and also near al Hujaira area. The area has nearly been controlled by sectarian militias that came from Iraq and Lebanon to fight with the Syrian regime.

Sayeda Zeinab's area has witnessed violent clashed between those groups and opposition groups which gave the conflict in Syria some sectarian features. The fighting moved from these areas into the camp where 39 people have been killed and thousands of the refugees fled to Jaramana and Khan Danoon camps and to khan Al-Shiekh in Lebanon. UNRWA's estimated that those displaced from Sayeda Zeinab camp to Lebanon is 5, 39 % of the total refugees who escaped Syria to Lebanon due to the ongoing crisis.

Khan Eshieh camp:

Khan Eshieh camp is located 27 kilometers west of Damascus. The camp was the shelter for the early Palestinian refugees in 1948. It was established in 1949 on an area of 67 dunums, and has a population of about 23,826 refugees, made up of 5,782 family. Alike the Khan Eshieh's camp, this camp has been largely affected, due to the unfolding events of the Syrian civil war. Since the middle of 2013, the camp has been constantly exposed to artillery shelling, rocket attacks and jetfighters air raids. The armed opposition groups have stationed in the surrounding areas of the camp of groves and farms. The camp is considered a hot spot between the regime and opposition forces where clashes are constant. This resulted in considerable material damage and the death of more than 57 persons from the camp residents.

The camp is subject to various violent incidents, lack of security and safety; the arrests and abductions of its residents take place regularly. Cases of robbery against people's belongings and properties have been reported as carried out by "unidentified gunmen" A number of residents have been killed where one case included killing a man by armed groups as he was accused of being a spy to the regime.

Due to the ongoing situation and miserable conditions faced by the refugees, many of them were pushed to escape the camp for the life and their family's safety. Some of them escaped to the outskirts of Damascus which is relatively calm. The outskirts are 10-15 km away from the camp. Others went to Damascus the capital which is 27km away from the camp where they lived in Al-Mazza quarter and the villas area. A third wave of them went to Qudsya and Dommor quarters. Another group of those refugees went to Lebanon where they represent 7% of the total refugees who arrived there, as reported by UNRWA. Finally, another wave of those refugees went to Egypt and from Egypt to Libya and then to Europe.

The camp suffered severe living conditions due to lack of the flour, and the severe shortage of food, medicine and baby's milk. The residents also suffered from power and communications blackout. There are some refugees still in the camp and it hosts 38 families who arrived to Deir Amro shelter.

Khan Dannun camp:

The camp was established in 1948 to the south of Damascus, which is 23 km away from its centre, and is located on the main road linking ancient Damascus and Daraa. After nearly two the

camp was transformed from tents into built building on size of 120000 sqm. The area saw further expansion in 1966 and extended its borders to the east to reach the main road linking Daraa - Damascus. The residents of the camp are estimated at 11.996 refugees, made up 3.044 families.

The camp has hosted thousands of the other camps residents due to deteriorating security conditions, especially from Yarmouk refugee camp, Husseinia, Sayeda Zeinab and Sbeina. The camp was relatively calm but witnessed some clashes between the Syrian army and opposition armed groups. This led to the injury of many residents in the camp, 6 residents were killed in the Syrian prisons due to torture.

Homs camp (Al A'idin)

The camp is located within the city of Homs, 160 km in the north of Damascus. It was established in 1950 on an area of 60,000 sq m, overlooking the Al Asi river, and its refugees number is equal 9.509 people, make up 2.373 family. The camp hosts hundreds of families who fled from other Syrian cities with a total of 624 families. The outskirts of the camp are volatile where constant clashes erupt between the Syrian army and armed groups. Different arrests campaign targeted the camp and the number of casualties reached 16.

Neirab Camp:

The camp was established between 1950 and 1948 on the remains a military barrack belonging to the French Army and coalition forces during the Second World War. It is 13 km southeast to Aleppo city. The camp was named as the village where it's on now. The size is built on area of 148000 sq m, which has a population of 20.933 people, made up of 5,029 families.

Due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, many of the camp residents fled to Turkey via border crossings controlled by armed groups. Therefore, the number of the camp residents decreased to 10.000 people. Additionally, a number of 30 displaced families arrived from Handarat Camp.

The camp is considered a hot spot between the two fighting parties because it's close to Neirab (Aleppo) airport. More than 35 persons were killed in the camp.

Ein el-Tal Camp (Handarat):

The camp is located 13 kilometers north east the city of Aleppo, and was established in 1962 on an area of 160,000 square meters. The UNRWA does not recognize the camp, but it considers it a concentration area for Palestinian refugees. UNRWA developed the camp and established 47 residential units to host the residents of Neirab camp. Additionally, there were 35 new units under construction before the begging of the civil war. The estimated number of refugees in the camp is estimated at 6.385 persons.

The camp has been bombarded by jetfighters and artillery shells more frequently. This is due to the fact that it lies within the area controlled by the armed forces and its location which is close to the Canadian hospital which is strategically important for both parties. The opposition armed forced controlled that hospital in 2014. The camp is 3km away from the central prison of Aleppo.

With the start of opposition armed forces arriving to the camp, refugees started to leave in quarter number 9 and Aleppo university residential buildings. Small numbers if them left to Neirab camp. Only 100 families returned to the camp later on. The total number of casualties is 28 persons.

Latakia Camp (Al-Raml):

It is located near Al-Lathika city on the Mediterranean sea, which is not recognized by the UNRWA, but it supports it with the services along the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Syrian. The population of the camp is equal (8,652) people making up (2,402) family, and the number of Palestinian refugees living in the area of the Syrian coast is approximately 3,339, distributed in the city of Latakia, Jableh, Baniyas and Tartous and Arwad.

The camp lies within the heart of Latakia city off the Mediterranean shore. It is not recognized by the UNRWA. The camp is being run by the General Authority for the Palestinian Arab Refugees. The number of residents in the camp is 8652 refugees made up of 2402 families. The total number of Palestinian refugees who live in the coastal areas in Syria is 3339 refugees in Latakia, Jabla, Baniyas, Tartos and Arwad Island. The camp appeared in the mainstream when in a press conference on the 26th of March 2011, Bothaina Shaban, Media and Political consultant for President Bashar al Assad held Palestinian groups in Al Raml refugee camp the responsibility of commercial buildings' sabotage. She also accused them of initiating what she described as "conspiracy project"

Currently, the camp is witnessing relatively calm which attracted refugees from other towns and cities to come in. On the humanitarian level, there is a severe shortage of food, medicines, fuel and a rise in goods prices. Occasionally, the Syrian army attacks the camp and arrest activists of relief work. Around 8 people were killed in the camp.

Daraa camp and Darra A-Tawari' (Emergency Camp):

Palestinian refugees in the city of Daraa, located in the far south of Syria, are distributed in two camps. The first is called Daraa Camp, which was established in 1950, and the other is Daraa Tawari'(Emergency Camp), which was established in 1967 following the six-day war of 1967. In practice, they are considered one camp integrated within the population of the city. Due to this UNRWA deals with them as one camp although they are two. The number of Daraa camp registered residents according UNRWA is 6,204 people, comprised of 1,525 families. While Daraa Tawari' population is 5,787 people from 1,415 families.

Syrian revolution was triggered on the 18th of March 2011, through a protest in Al Imari mosque, after Friday prayers to condemn the arrest of 11 children from Daraa town. Worshipers in the mosque included a number of Palestinians, as Palestinians live close to the areas and they often come to the mosque. As events unfolded, security forces responded to the protests brutally which left many dead and wounded. Protests then spread and thousands of protesters burned Syrian security premises on Monday the 21st of March 2011. One official building, Al Qasr Al Adli (Justice Palace) 20which is 300 meters away from Palestinian refugee camp of Daraa was burned. Therefore, security forces authorized to eliminate protests in the area and accused

Palestinians in the camps of participating in the events that erupted on Monday. This was confirmed later in a news report published in Al Watn Newspaper, which is close to the Syrian regime. It had published a detailed report on Daraa events which accused Palestinians of causing what it described as a riot. It claimed Syrian people; residents of Daraa who participated in the protests were a few. The paper also stated that meetings between Syrian security services and Palestinian leaders from the different factions met with Hisham Bakhtyar, Head of the Syrian National Security Office, who rebuked and held them responsible. Despite these accusations, the paper failed to present any name of those accused of igniting the protest.

Later on, part of the camp residents was displaced to Jordan through the dangerous “barbed wire” borders. Their displacement in Jordan was full of misery as they were “caged” in large almost military prisons, including Cyber City. This is due to the Jordanian government’s policies towards Palestinian refugees from Syria. This treatment has pushed many of the Palestinian refugees to make fraudulent travel and passport documents which makes them “Syrians” thus they have better treatment in Jordan.

Another part of the camp displaced was displaced to Lebanon but the largest numbers of refugees remain in Daraa towns like Al-amzirib, the eastern villages, such as Atman Anaemeh, A-lmiadn, and nwa. Also, in the western villages such as :Al- Yadodeh , Tel Shehab , A-Tabriaat , Zayzoun , Al-ajami , Glenn , Sahn Al-Golan , Hait , A-shajaraa and Abdin . In addition to that, they are in Al-Konytra countryside, such as Ayn Thekr, Al-Besalh , Sayda and Al- Maalaka. The number of Palestinian victims in Daraa is about 134 victims.

Other Palestinian Communities:

Palestinians are mainly located around Damascus and the countryside. Their distribution rate varies from one place to another; in some areas it is more than the number of recognized camps’ residents. Those areas can be classified in the following:

- 1- Rokn Adeen: Their number is estimated by 25 thousand refugees. The UNRWA serves this population by offering educational and health services.
- 2- Al- Ameen neighborhood: it is located in AL-Shaghoor’s old neighborhood. In the fifties of the past century, it was called “Al- Alinaas” camp or what was called also as Al- Joura camp in Al-Ameen neighborhood. The UNRWA introduced education and health services, which extends to areas of Al-Maleeha, Shabaa, and the eastern Gouta.
- 3- AL- Kaboon: is considered one of the largest communities for the refugees, and the majority of its residents came from Al-Tantoora and Ghowir Abu Shousha villages. It is nested with the Syrians’ houses; it is located 3 km away from Abbasids’ arena within the areas where UNRWA provides its educational and health services.
- 4- Barza or what is so-called Hitin camp located 3km away from the Abbasia Square, and it is served by UNRWA.
- 5- Jobar and Zamalka: a large number of Palestinians live at this gathering; most of them are from Alzengria clan and Al-Mujaydil village.
- 6- Duma city: many of the Palestinians who dwell there come from Safed, Tira and northern Palestine.

- 7- Dommor: it is a large gathering for Palestinians refugees that UNRWA serves in both, education and health issues.
- 8- Mazza neighborhood: it is small and old area inhabited by refugees from Safed city.
- 9- Sa'saa city: a small community which is located near the city of Quneitra.
- 10- These communities are some of most affected in the current crisis. Yet, they were not mentioned as if they are Palestinians due to the fact that they are integrated within the Syrian society and cities. The previous details show the distribution of the Palestinian refugees and their geographical and social integration with the Syrian people.

Sequence of key events affecting the conditions “Palestinians’ in Syria

-Key Events:

The close relationship between the Syrian and Palestinian people appeared during the difficult times faced by the Palestinian people. The Syrian people always stood by the Palestinian people and the Palestinian refugees in Syria did not spare an effort to help the Syrians in return. The camps of the Palestinian refugees in the country became a shelter for Syrian refugees and they did not find a safe haven in their cities and towns.

The first Palestinian to die at the event was on the 23rd of March 2011, Wisam Amin Al Ghouli, from Daraa camp. He was trying to rescue some wounded people before he was shot dead by the Syrian army. Also, Mosa al Tafari, was executed by the Syrian army in Daraa al Bald area at the end of April 2011 due to his involvement in humanitarian relief activities.

After that, the participation of Palestinians in protests against the regime was very limited in providing aid and humanitarian support. This limited engagement was due to the fact that the number of Palestinians in Daraa was 5.5% from the total number of Palestinian refugees in Syria which represents 2.5% from the entire population in Syria.

As the protests in the country escalated and widened, the effect of Palestinians increased similar to what happened in Homs and Latakia. The number of Palestinian refugees in these areas is 6%. The turning point in the crisis was in Damascus and its countryside as the number of Palestinian population there is bigger. A number of Palestinians were killed within the Palestinian camps and Syrian cities. This was followed by waves of Syrian refugees who took Palestinian camps as shelters.

Palestinians in the camps including Al Yarmouk adopted a neutral position towards the crisis, in order to avoid any involvement in the civil war. Their position was based on the Palestinian experiences in the past in other countries. This limited their role in providing humanitarian support for the Syrian people. In addition to opening their houses to Syrian refugees, they opened schools and mosques to host them. They provided aid and medical relief services for the displaced Syrian refugees. This was done either by individual or groups or organizations.

A dangerous development took place when the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)- the General Leadership, headed by Ahmed Gibrel, established armed committees inside the camps despite the objection of all Palestinian parties. The step was supported and funded by money and weapons from the ruling Regime. Such a move brought the camp into confrontation where daily clashes broke between the committees and the opposition groups in the neighboring

areas in Al- Hagar Al- Aswad and Tadamon. These areas consider the presence of this military group as the other side of the regime. During the first four months, approximately 231 victims from the camp were killed, due to clashes and the continuous bombing.

Apparently, the Syrian regime has used some Palestinian factions like PFLP the General leadership as “tools” to achieve its goals. Such a move dragged the camp into direct involvement between the regime and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - the General Leadership against the opposition factions.

This situation has remained static with similar confrontation until the Syrian jet fighters “Mig” bombarded the Abdalqader al Husaini mosque in the centre of the camp which was used as a shelter for 5000 refugees including children and elderly.

This event was a turning point in the camp following which groups from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - the General Leadership, defected and other military groups intervened and threw out opponents. This led to huge waves of refugees from the camp. Following this, the camp was exposed to constant attacks from the Syrian regime as well as a siege imposed by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - the General Leadership which is loyal to the Syrian regime in September 2013. The siege is still enforced and has claimed the lives of many due to lack of food.

Furthermore, Khan Dannun and Khan Eshieh camps have had a distinguished role in helping the displaced Syrians to the extent that made the most of the Palestinian associations and charitable institutions moving their offices to the camps. Till the moment of writing this report, some of the camps are still serving and helping displaced Syrians.

Here are a number of key events that affected Palestinian refugees in Syria:

- 1- The first Palestinian victims was Wisam Amin al-Ghoul, he was killed on 23/3/2011 while providing medical aid to wounded Syrians .
- 2- The “return walk” on the borders of the occupied Golan on 15 May 2011, and the events of Al- Khalesa in Yarmouk camp, which resulted in the death of 29 Palestinian youths following the march on the annual anniversary of the 6-day war. The next day, during the funeral, gun fire was opened by gunmen from Al- Khalesa building at the crowds. That building is the headquarter of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - the General Leadership in the camp .
- 3- The execution of 14 recruits from the Palestinian Liberation Army from Neirab and Handarat camps on 07/11/2012. It is believed that they were abducted by the opposition groups two weeks before. Both of the opposition and the Syrian regime accused each other of carrying out the massacre .
- 4- Targeting the demonstration in Yarmouk refugee camp on 13/7/2012 as people protested against the execution of the Palestine Liberation Army recruits. The protesters accused the regime of committing the act.

- 5- Shelling Yarmouk and Al- Hajar Al- Aswaad camps by the mortar on 18/7/2012, the same day of the National Security building bombing in Damascus and killing of the Syrian crisis cell.
- 6- Ja'una Street massacre in Yarmouk refugee camp on 2/8/2012 shortly before the Ramdan "Iftar" resulted in the death of about 26 victims.
- 7- Execution of entire families in Doma on 10/25/2012, the families are Khalifa, Abed Rabbo and al-Bashir.
- 8- The Bombing of "Abdul Qader Al-Husseini" Mosque in Yarmouk refugee camp by the MIG planes on 16/12/2012
- 9- The bombing of Husseiniyeh camp by Migjets on 01/17/2013, during the days of Eid al-Adha which caused the death of six children.
- 11- Bombing Sbeina camp by the artillery shells, on 17/03/2013 three days after fieldexecution against a family of five members.
- 12- On 03/27/2013 five persons died due to torturing. They belong to one family from Artouz.
- 13- On 28/04/2013 Khan Al- Shiekh refugee camp was bombed by artillery shells.
- 14- Al-Gota and Al-Madmiya were bombed by the chemical weapons on 21.08.2013, resulting in the death of more than 1,500 people, of whom 25 Palestinians .

In response to the increasing attacks from the Syrian army, opposition groups committed various human rights violations that affected many people who stayed in the camp. As the militants of these groups stationed at the southern entrance of the camp, many flats and properties from street number 15 were looted. It is considered the richest street in Al Yarmouk camp. They collected and stored what was looted in stores in Al Hajr al aswad before they sold it outside the area.

The acts of theft and looting by Sokour Al-Golan group, have increased anger among Palestinian in Yarmouk refugee camp and the rest of the camps. It has created a split among the people in Al Hajr al Aswad neighborhood which is a Syrian area where the militants belong and between Palestinians there. Such tense situation is still the case in the area while the people in that part live under miserable conditions under severe siege.

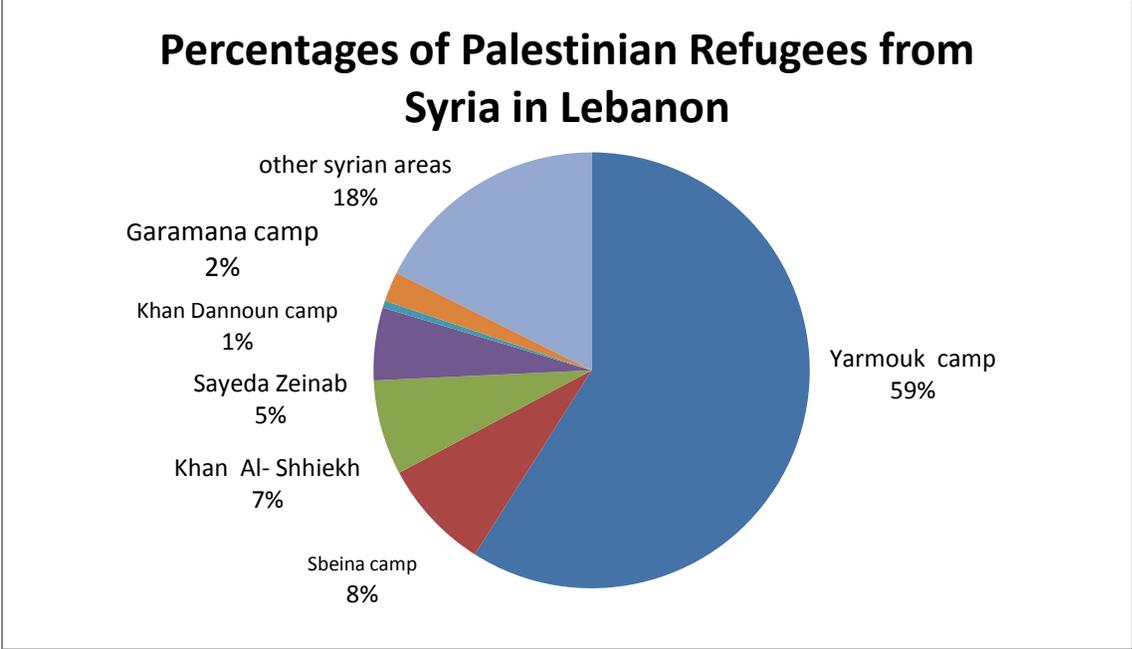
To conclude, Palestinians found themselves involved in the core of the Syrian crisis and most of them have witnessed a new catastrophe. Some took refuge to safer places in the country, and others left Syria fearing for their lives and their children. Dozens of people drowned in the sea while trying to escape to Europe on what became known as "Death Boats" in quest of better life.

1- Displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon

At the start of the Syrian crisis, the displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria crisis found that Lebanon is an easy and safe refuge place to flee and had easy access. However, following surging number of refugees, Lebanon has imposed measures to stop the flow of Palestinian refugees. According UNRWA statistics at the beginning of June, that refugee number from Syria to Lebanon exceeded 80 thousand refugees, however, it is just 51 thousand refugees at the beginning of the current year (2014).

This decrease in number was clear when UNRWA announced that the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon was 81,000. Yet, the numbers of UNRWA early this year 2014, indicate

that their numbers are 51,000 only. UNRWA statistics suggest that the number of Palestinian refugees from Al Yarmouk camp is biggest, 59%, then Sbaina camp 8%, Khan al Sheikh 7%, al Sayeda Zaynab 5%, Jarmana 2%, Kan Danon 1% and other 18% from other Syrian cities and towns.

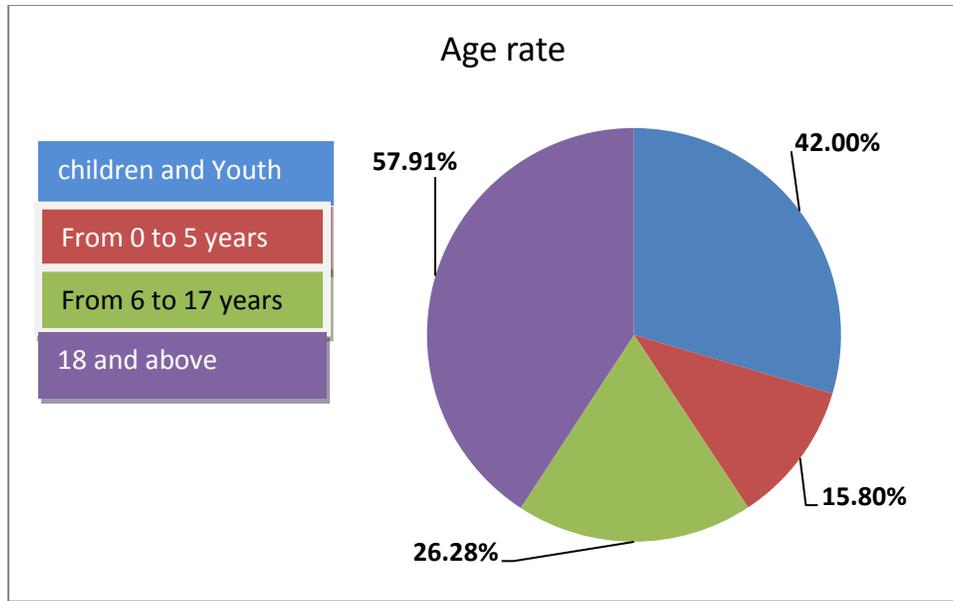


The number of the Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon exceeded 80, 000 yet it decreased to the numbers mentioned above. This sharp drop is related to several factors as some of them only cross Lebanon as a transit through Beirut airport and because some others returned to Syria as they could not adapt in Lebanon. They preferred to live a risky life in Syria rather than dying due to hunger.

Others returned to Syria to prepare some legal and official documentation that will help or for visiting family members. Others left the country due to some fined imposed on them as they overstayed their visa period. Additionally, the security procedures taken by the Lebanese General Security Service against Palestinians on the borders with Syria contributed to the drop in the numbers.

The distribution of Palestinians refugees from Syria to Lebanon:

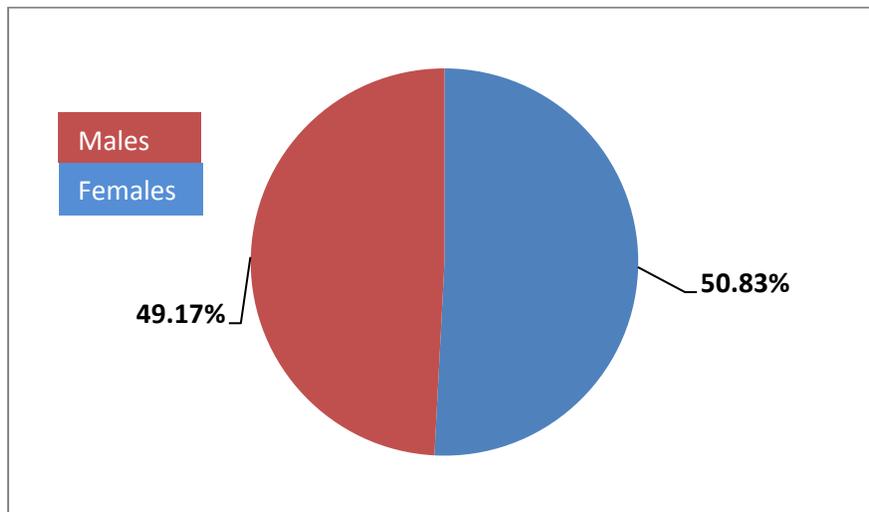
Children and Youth represent the largest segments of displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon. Their rate exceeded 42% and the category aged from 0-5 years formed 15.80%, while the category aged from 6- 17 year formed 26.28%, and the category from 18 years old and above reached at 57,91%.



The distribution of the Palestinians refugees from Syria to Lebanon, according to age

Distribution of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon based on gender

Females' rate among the refugees is 50, 8%, compared to 49.17% males. Also, the families that women are responsible for is 40.89%, while the families charged by men is 59.11%

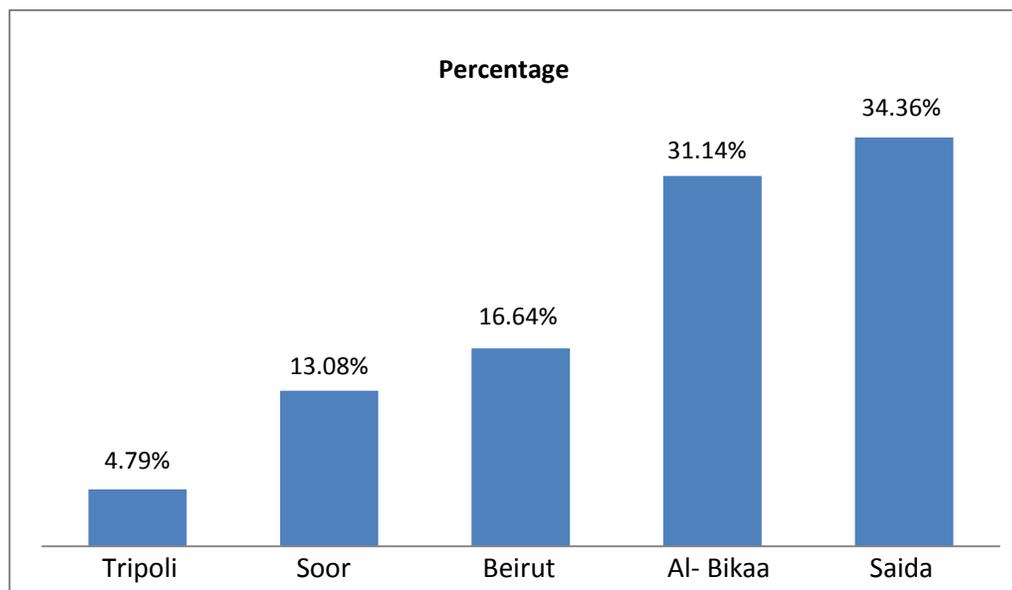


The distribution of the Palestinians refugees from Syria to Lebanon, according to gender

Palestinians refugees from Syria to Lebanon are distributed in five regions in the Lebanese cities, camps and neighborhood, and according to the UNRWA statistics they are distributed as in the following areas:

The percentage for the registered refugees in and outside the camps till 25 October 2013										
Regions	Inside the camps				Outside the camps				Total	
	Family	Person	Family%	Person%	Family	Person	family%	Person%	Family	Person
Beirut	1595	5046	57.87%	58.46%	1161	3586	42.13%	41.54%	2756	8632
Al-Biqaa	119	376	5.19%	4.71%	2173	7608	94.81%	95.29%	2292	7984
Saida	2217	7571	48.04%	48.21%	2398	8133	51.96%	51.79%	4615	15704
Tripoli	1950	6835	85.38%	86.38%	334	1078	14.62%	13.62%	2284	7913
Soor	1694	5895	64.98%	63.97%	913	3320	35.02%	36.03%	2607	9215
The total	7575	25723	52.05%	52.02%	6979	23725	47.95%	47.98%	14554	49448

Data indicates that the largest proportion of the families took refuge in Saida City where it reached 34.36%, while 31, 14% settled in Al- Bikaa. Others went to Beirut 16, 64%, and 13,08% in Tyre, and finally Tripoli 4,79%.



Regional distribution of the Palestinians refugees from Syria in Lebanon

Ein Al-Helwa camp located in city of Saida hosted the biggest number of refugees with 26.87%

A table showing the percentage of the registered people in the camps

Camp	Arashedyva	Al-Buss	Al-Borj Ashamali	Nahr Al-Bared	Al-Badawi	Al-Maya w Miya	Ayn Al-helwa	Al-Jaleel	Mar Al-Yas	Debya	Shatila	Borj Al-Barajina
Percentage	4,98	3,46	14,49	12,06	14,51	2,56	26,87	1,46	1,79	0,14	7,71	9,99

2- The displaced Palestinians refugees from Syria to Jordan

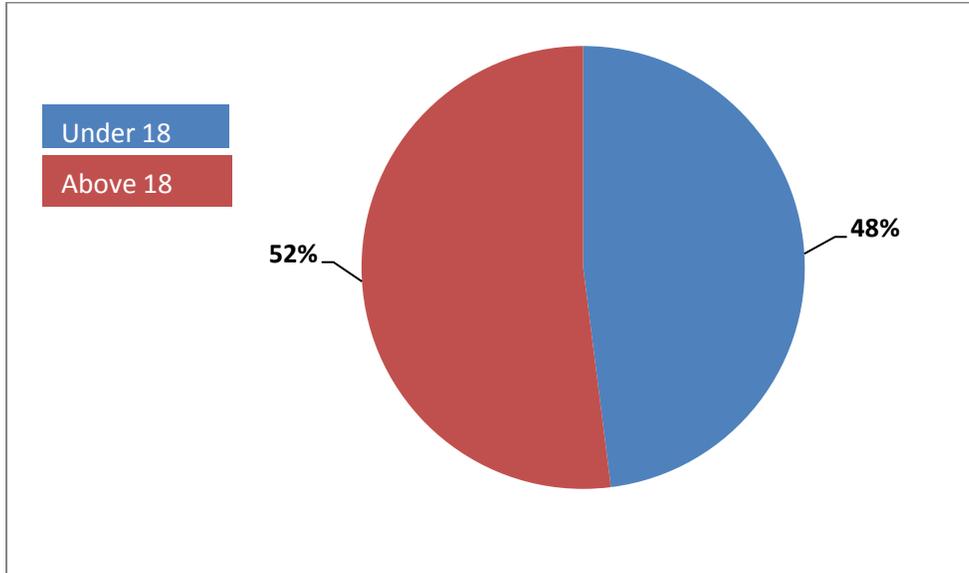
Palestinian refugees from Syria started to stream into Jordan through border points following the tight siege imposed on Palestinian camps in Daraa. At the early stages of these waves of refugees, there were no detailed security checks on their IDs which enabled many of them to enter Jordan and settle in border cities and camps easily. This is also due to the fact that many of those refugees held Jordanian passports or travel document in addition to the fact that their relatives at the Jordanian side helped them to come to the country. These relatives also helped them to settle and find jobs so they can shoulder the family needs. Many of those refugees managed to come to Jordan by showing fake Syrian passports and IDs. Part of them also managed to come to Jordan as they were married to Syrian women.

The total number of Palestinian refugees who arrived from Syria to Jordan is 9657 as per UNRWA statistics. Their numbers were expected to be around 10 thousands by end of 2013. UNRWA provides some aid and other services to help the most impoverished from those refugees.

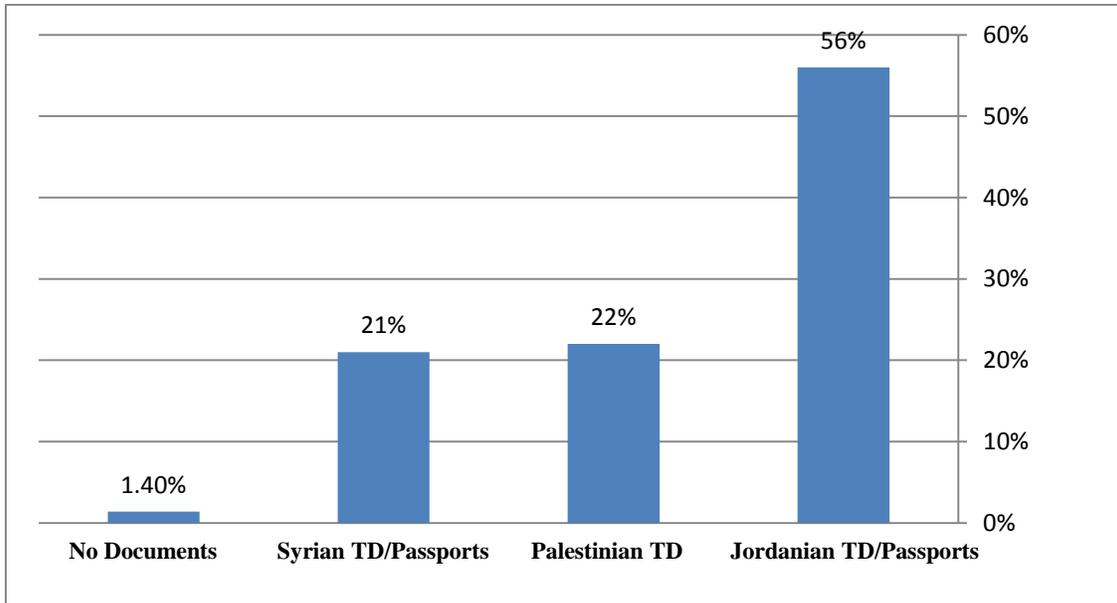
Distribution of the Palestinians refugees from Syria in the Jordanian cities:

The refugees are distributed in various cities, towns and camps in Jordan such as Irbid, Azarqa, Amman, Al- Mafraq , Azaatari camp and Cyber city camp. They are comprised of 2391 families, and 48 % of whom are under 18 years . Also, 52% of them are females of whom 30% are considered the only source to support for their families. The average of family members is 4.1 members. The graphs below shows the distribution of refugees according to age and gender.

Distribution according to the age



Also, the documents that the refugees possess do vary. Around 59% have Jordanian documents, 22% of them have Palestinian documents and 21% have Syrian travel documents and 1.4 % of them have no documents.



3- Palestinians Refugees From Syria in Egypt

Decisions made by former Palestinian president and his government made it easy for Palestinian refugees from Syria to come to the country. The decision issued following the 25th of January revolution in Egypt allowed Palestinians with travel document to come to Egypt, especially those above 40 years. It was made easy for families regardless of age limit to come to the country for safe haven from the war in Syria where they can also get education.

According to numbers collected by the (Emergency committee) formed by Palestinian refugees and in cooperation with Palestinian embassy in Cairo, the numbers of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt is more than 2000 families made of 12000 individuals.

Most of those refugees came from Al Yarmouk, Khan al Shaikh and Al raml camps. Some also came from the countryside of Damascus and Homs cities. Meanwhile, limited numbers arrived from the other Palestinian gatherings in Syria. Those families are from the middle class who were able to secure their travel and accommodation costs.

For many of those refugees, Egypt was just a transit contemplating that they can return to Syria when conditions improve. Egypt for them was a temporary stage before they reach Europe through the Mediterranean Sea on what became known as “Death Boats”. The numbers of those refugees who attempted to take these boats to Europe increased in the last few months as Egypt new authorities escalated their measures against them. Some of those arrived to Egypt were also planning to go to Libya to find jobs and work.

By the second half of year 2013, the numbers of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt has sharply decreased as many of them escaped to Libya, Europe, Turkey and Lebanon. This decrease was due to the fact that Egyptian authorities has taken repressive measures against them. Additionally, Egypt has denied them an entry to the country and gave orders to its embassies and consulates worldwide not to give them visas. Many of those refugees in Egypt were arrested with total number of 296 including women and children. Media outlets in Egypt launched various libel and fake accusation attacks against them which contributed to violence against them either by the authorities or some Egyptian individuals.

The distribution of refugees was in major Egyptian cities such as Cairo, Alexandria, Al- Fayoum, Al- Mansoura and Matrouh, but the largest concentration area for them is “6th of October” City in Greater Cairo.

4- Palestinians from Syria in Libya

The number of Palestinian refugees who arrived to Libya from Syria is estimated of 5000. They were part of waves of Syrian refugees amounted of 80-100 thousand refugees who arrived to the country at the start of the Syrian crisis. The numbers of Palestinian refugees in Libya decreased recently as many of them migrated by sea to Europe. Many of them died and drowned by the “Death Boats”. Many of them also escaped from Egypt and used Libya as a transit to Europe. The easy entry measures in Egypt before mid-2013 facilitated the arrival of more than 3000 Palestinian refugees from Syria to Libya passing by the country.

As the Libya authorities closed its borders on December 2012, refugees started to look for illegal ways to enter the country.

Methods of arrival to Libya:

A-Border Points:

Smugglers were paid to help refugees cross from Egypt into Libya with the cost of \$250 to \$350 per person. This was is risky and many incidents were reported.

B-Desert Roads:

Many of the families took the desert as it way to reach Libya via Siwa desert between the two countries. Families paid sums between \$350 to \$500 per person. The journey of the refugees was always difficult and they were humiliated by gangs, army forces and smugglers. Many of them lost their ways in the desert for some days.

C-By Sea

Few of the refugees took the sea to reach Libya. The journey by sea is short and is less than 4 hours and its price is average of \$500.

D-By Air

This was the legal way that many refugees took to reach Libya where travel companies secured visas for them to enter the country. Visas prices ranged from \$800 to \$1200.

5- Palestinian refugees in Turkey

Tens of Palestinian families fled from Latacia city and Al raml refugee camp to turkey when the crisis of Syria started in 2011. They took refuge in Turkish refugee camps due to the military attacks in that area which pushed of refugees from Al raml camp to escape. It was not an easy task for them to cross as they were exposed to security risks including detention. To leave Syria and return again, the refugees and their families are at risk from the Syrian regime.

While they are in Turkish refugee camps at the borders, Palestinians unlike Syrians; need visas to enter turkey.

Many Palestinian families continue to come to Turkey by illegal ways s the Turkish embassy in Syria closed. This pushed them to seek illegal ways via smugglers through Edlib countryside and Aleppo in a journey that's risky. They can be detained, killed and face unknown fate. Many succeeded and others failed in crossing the borders. However, the overall view of the refugee movement to turkey is that tens of thousands have managed to cross. Parts of them reached the refugee camps at the Turkish borders and others even moved further down in other cities in Turkey like Istanbul.

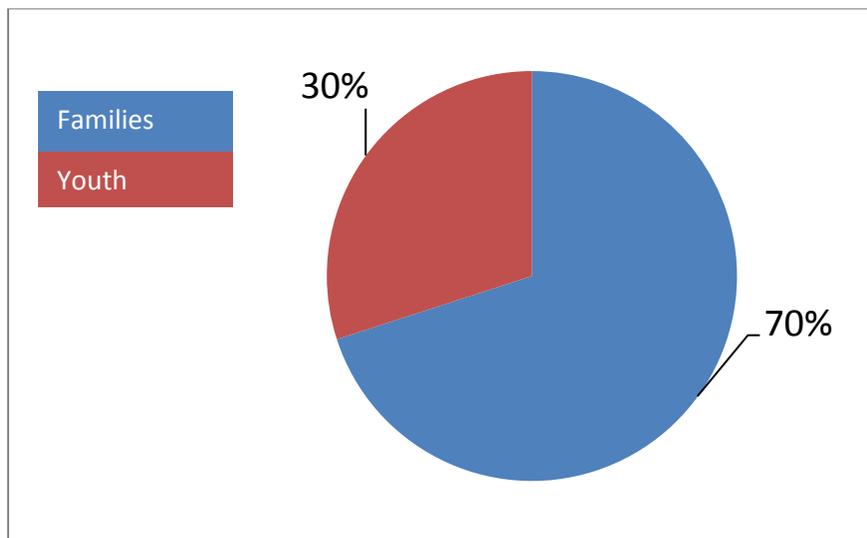
Numbers and Distribution

There is no official or non-governmental organizations that issued statistics or numbers of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Turkey. This is due to some technical difficulties in the field. This is due to factors like some Palestinian refugees refuse to say they are Palestinians as they

might be legally pursued by the authorities. Also, there is lack of responsibility from the Palestinian authority in working towards such an approach.

As the crisis in Syria exacerbated and the door of refuge to Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt was closed, Turkey became a desirable destination for them as it will be their gate to Europe. The great concentration of those refugees is on the Turkish cities bordering Syria. There is less numbers in the city of Istanbul.

Only personal efforts done by researchers and some activist groups, provided estimates of the Palestinian refugees in turkey is that 10000 since the start of the crisis. But, the numbers who reside in the country is between 2500-3000 as the rest left to Europe, Syria and other destinations. The percentage of the families is 70%, 30% (as shown in the graph below) of them are males and they live in Istanbul, Mersin, Antakia, al Reyhania, Kalas, Gazi Intab, Izmir, Adana, Borsa, Iskandaron and Qaraghan. Some other families are in the camps with the Syrian refugees. They don't declare the fact that they are Palestinians thus they receive equal treatment like the Syrians.



It is worth mentioning that the Syrian refugee enjoy various privileges in Turkey, in terms of work, accommodation, education and health services. Also, the Syrian passport holders can travel from and to Turkey without having to get a visa. However, Palestinian refugees are deprived from these privileges which compelled them to enter Turkey in an illegal ways that affected on their status there. They were deprived from obtaining education and work as well as the other benefits. They are even not allowed to have mobile line as they need to prove their identity and how they entered the country. Moreover, the Turkish embassies in all countries now refuse any requests for a visa for the Palestinians from Syria and those who have the Syrian travel documents. Previously, they can get the visa in few hours to get the visa from the Turkish Embassy in Damascus. Adding to that, those who managed to get visas were unable to obtain residence permit. The Syrian refugees get more privileges than Palestinians in terms of services, rights and freedom of movement.

6-Palestinian refugees from Syria to Sweden

The displacement and fleeing of Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria has been a phenomenon as crisis intensified and due to the bloody actions and flagrant violations of human rights in the country. This has in particular affected the Palestinian refugees where some of their refugee camps turned into battlefield between the Syrian army and the opposition.

Palestinian refugees who fled to many countries in the Middle East did not enjoy rights or any services, on top of this they were badly treated. In Egypt and especially after the change of the regime by the army Palestinian refugees started to escape the country by boats to Europe and other destinations. There were campaigns of incitement due to the political relations between Hamas, which governs Gaza and the Muslim Brotherhood which was governing Egypt. This was followed by legal actions that included arresting and deporting the refugees, which pushed them to sail to Europe.

Voyages of death started to sail from Alexandria through tens of voyages towards the southern shores of Italy. Their arrival to Italy is not easy and there are a lot of economic and legal difficulties and challenges like the fingerprints on the arrival. Every European county should host the refugees on the arrival and the fingerprint is a mechanism to identify those refugees. As Sweden has better reputation in treating refugees, many tend to go there. This pushed many of the refugees to refrain from giving the Italian authorities their fingerprints in fear they will remain in Italy. Therefore, Sweden received the largest number of Palestinian refugees. Swedish Emigration Service issued a decision on September, 3rd, 2013, recommending the granting of complete asylum to any refugee, coming from Syria.

According to the data given by Swedish Immigration Service, the number of refugees coming from Syria was 14700 by the end of September 2013. This number included Palestinians and Syrians. According to Sothern Sweden official newspaper, the number of Palestinian and Syrian refugees who came from Syria is 6921.

Many Palestinian refugees and their families face different challenges in Sweden. Such problems are common and generally any newly arriving refugee in Europe would face it. They are not limited to Palestinians. These are issued like change in social and cultural environment. The biggest challenge facing refugees in Sweden is that many of them were obliged by force to give their fingerprints to Italy. They did not want to give their fingerprints in hope they will have a better life in Sweden than what's awaiting them in Italy. This process in Italy included beating and detaining them until they take their fingerprints. Yet, returning the refugees from one European country to another is normal practice is provided by Dublin agreement in that regard.

A lot of documentation including pictures and videos were documented by refugees which shows the brutal treatment of Italian authorities to take their fingerprints by force. On the other side, some of the refugees were allowed to leave Italy without giving their fingerprints! Lately, there has been a drop on the number of refugees coming to Sweden and Europe due to the strict measures in Egypt, Libya and Turkey. Also, the winter season has played role in reducing the number of refugees travelling by sea. Few individual cases arrive from time to time to seek asylum in Sweden.

Part 2:

Legal conditions of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in the new Diaspora countries

Legal conditions of Palestinian refugees who left Syria varies from one country to another. Generally, the benefits, services, rights and protection was not up to the level that refugees should have. Add to this, legal challenges appeared in Syria that affected them.

Legal Conditions in Syria –Historical Path & Turning Point

The current crisis in Syria revealed the fracture that hit the legal status of Palestinian refugees in the country amounted of half a million. They were exposed to violence due to the civil war. This report will detail show the legal status of those refugees in this host country, (Syria). It also shows how those refugees were affected especially in lack of international protection. It will look into the damage that stormed them especially the human rights violations in Syria and even to what happened to them abroad. It will also show the treatment they had from the International community organizations as well as the Arabic states.

Palestinian Refugees in Syrian’s laws

Refugees often affected by the laws, political and social systems of the country they fled to. Most of the social studies that examine the interaction of refugees and their host communities put criteria to judge this interaction. This criteria is the amount of rights given to them.

Having followed the chronological order that looked into the legal status of Palestinian refugees in Syria

A- hronological Order of Legal status

Legal status is defined as what “An Individual's status is a legal position held in regards to the rest of the community and not by an act of law or by the consensual acts of the parties, and it is in rem, i.e. these conditions must be recognized by the world.”. The legal status grant refugees and people rights and benefits from host countries. Those with legal status “have the rights to have rights”.

This definition set the agenda to explain the historical background of Palestinian refugees in Syria. In Syria, many laws were enacted for Palestinian refugees since they took refuge in the country in 1948. At the start, 90 thousand Palestinian refugees arrived to the country. Their numbers were doubles due to time and extra waves of refugees that came from other Arab countries.

According to statistics done by General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR) the number of Palestinian refugees as for, August, 18 2012, is 494.819, distributed among 13 camps. UNRWA which was created by the UN to deal with crisis of Palestinian refugees following the Nakba of 1948 has acknowledged only 9 camps only.

Going backwards, process of arranging Palestinian refugees in the country started by implementing emergency procedures taken by the government at the time in order to make their temporary residence in the Syrian cities easy.

Later on, many laws and ministerial decisions were issued to help them integrate in the work market like decision 769 enacted in 22/11/1948 which allows them to work in the fishing industry in the Syrian territorial waters. Decision 940 issued in 3/4/1949 admitted them to work on temporary basis within state posts. In 1949, decision 450 was made to establish the General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR), a framework to deal with the Palestinian and Arab refugees for civil matters and social services like food, clothing, donation and scholarship. Another resolution number 33 issued in 17/9/1949 allowed Palestinian refugees to work within public posts. Other resolutions followed it to allow them work in fields of law, medicine, engineering, handicrafts and craftsmanship. Law No. (260) dated 10/07/1956, is the legal basis, governing the conditions of Palestinian refugees, where the text in its first article stated that "The Palestinians residing in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the publication of this law are all like original Syrians stipulated in the laws and regulations in force, and employment and labor rights, trade and military service, while retaining their original nationality."

This law granted the Palestinian refugee most of the civil rights given to the Syrian citizen. It has contributed to the Palestinian community's engagement and interaction in various activities in the Syrian life. However, the law has denied them political rights, and in essence, the right to stand for election and legislative positions. The justification for this denial was that having full political rights would prejudice the Palestinian national identity and the needs to maintain it.

Yet, this item from the law did not raise Palestinian refugee's anger who sticks to his/her national identity. But in reality, political rights were not guaranteed for the Syrian citizens even, especially since the issuance of the emergency law in 1963, which left deep effects on political system. That law has contributed to the restriction of public freedoms, without distinction between citizens and the like ones.

It is interesting to consider that the right to own property, in particular, was restricted right for Palestinian refugees, and subject to the same conditions of foreign ownership; since decrees and decisions related to the ownership of the Palestinian family were exclusively limited to one house only. Yet, it required obtaining the approval of the Minister of the Interior, including security approval. However, this restriction was related to the permanent and temporary mortgage records. Whilst, whatsoever related to agricultural land used for housing without taking the legal permissions was treated alike with Syrians if they use it as stated in law No. 183 of 1969. In a later period, new restrictions were put on the ownership of Arabs and foreigners. Palestinians were not excluded as stated in Law No. (11) For the year 2008, which conditioned the refugee obtain security clearance to record the property in the Land Registry. Even in relation to judicial decisions, as well as impossible conditions placed by the law such as the requirement that Palestinians have the property within the "organizational chart", and that the area is not less

than 200 square meters, the amendment, occurred on this law in 2011, reducing the area of the property to 140 square meters, did not change the severity of these conditions.

B- Different statuses of Palestinian refugees in the Syrian law

Since the emergence of the Palestinian refugee's problem, 6 decades ago, Palestinians faced, different legislative systems, depending on the countries of asylum. Its legal considerations were not immune to the political trends and interests of the country. Moreover, disparity in the legal positions of the refugee communities in the host Arab countries was clear that was reflected in historical transformations, which, in turn, confirmed the difficulty of relying on fixed rules that guarantee the relative rights of refugees to ensure the protection of their presence. That was clearly revealed during the crisis and internal conflicts that have been known to the host countries for Palestinian refugees in previous historical periods such as Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Iraq and now Syria.

However, the problem seems a little more complicated when the host country puts legal conditions in the way of treating the resident refugees. This was not spared by the Syrian laws related to Palestinian refugees although Syria was distinguished among Arab countries in its laws of refugees. Particularly, regarding the civil rights they were having that allowed them to engage themselves in the Syrian social and cultural life in early historical phases. Those distinctions were clear in the way Syrian laws dealt with refugees distinctively, ranged between permission and prevention. There are 6 classification as the following:

1- The 1948:

This category represents the vast majority of Palestinian refugees in Syria comprising of 85 % of the refugees. It enjoys good legal conditions as it falls under law number 260 issued in 1956 which equates them with the Syrian citizens in terms of rights and duties, except running for elections or voting. Males in this category aged 19 or over were obliged to carry out mandatory military service for a year and a half. A decade earlier this was two and a half years. The law gives opportunity for this group of refugees to employment and access to all public sector jobs, even at high management positions.

2- The 1956:

The populations of this category are residents of Akrad Al Baqara and Al Ghanama towns who were expelled in 1956 towards Syria. They were estimated to be around 2000, documented by General Commission for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GCPAR). This category enjoys the same rights as the first category, apart from compulsory military service. They are also not allowed to work in the public sectors unless they have short-term contracts.

3- The 1967:

This category arrived in Syria following the 1967 war with Israel. Most of them came from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They hold Egyptian and Jordanian travel documents and are treated as foreigners before Syrian law.

4- The 1970-1971:

This category has a very complicated situation as they don't have any legal ID documents. They migrated to Syria following the incidents of Black September in 1970-1971, between the Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Most of them hold expired Jordanian passports as they were not able to renew them due to security reasons. This category receives educational and basic health services from UNRWA. Yet, they face a lot of difficulties in the labor market as a result of their legal conditions. They also can't travel out of Syria.

5- The 1982:

The refugees of year 1982, and who were abandoned as a result of the Israeli attack on Lebanon, had been dealt with according to the official documents issued by the Lebanese government, which demands the requirement for annual residence.

6- The 2006

Include those who were forced to leave Iraq following the 2003 War. The Syrian government allowed waves of Palestinian refugees from Iraq to come to Syria in 2006. Some entered legally and others illegally. Their numbers are estimated at 4000 to 5000, who are registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This category suffers from a very complicated legal and security conditions. They don't have the basic civil rights and they are similar to the 1970 category in terms of legal status.

Fallouts of the Syrian ordeal on refugee situations

After six decades Palestinian refugees displacement in Syria, marked by tranquility and stability, compared to the countries where they suffered from legal and social discrimination (Lebanon as model); the internal conflict in Syria since the beginning of 2011, opened a new historical phase. The tragic consequences of the current crisis in Syria affected and still, the lives of Palestinian refugees after they found themselves in the midst of this conflict exposed to many forms of violence and physical violations although there were calls for making the camps neutral and away from these bloody events. This coincided with the restriction and disruption of many of the rights they had by law, which has paved a new path through the crisis. For example, the contest of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in 2012 excluded Palestinians from joining by a minister's decision. This was clear violation of the law (260), for year 1956. Additionally, the Syrian president excluded in his statement the phrase (the like ones) from the law of scientific scholarships. This raised serious concerns of that this will confiscate refugees' rights

due to this changing policy from the state. The following points explain the damage that affected Palestinian refugees:

1-Reality of Palestinian tragedy in Syria

Daily events of the Syrian conflict revealed the tragic disaster, occurring to Palestinian refugees, included cruel killings, arrests, bombardment, destruction, hunting, blockade, displacement, poverty and extreme impoverishment. These elements increased the suffering of thousands of Palestinian refugees and led them to unknown fate as bloody conflict continues. Facts documented with figures and evidence confirmed that the primary outcome of casualties can be summarized as follows:

- More than 1982 Palestinians were killed since the outbreak of the crisis until the date 28/1/2014, mostly civilians (children, women, youth, elders) were targeted as individuals, families, or communities. They died due to shelling, shooting, kidnapping, detention, torture, and “siege” to death. This remains an approximate figure due to the difficulty of having accurate statistics in the Syrian case. Besides, there were cases of unknown capturing and disappearance and unidentified detainees. Among these victims, (134) were documented as to “died under torture” in the prisons of the regime up to the date 28/1/2014.
- Almost many camps were destroyed entirely like Daraa, Sbina, Sayeda Zeinab and Husseinia. Partial destruction hit other camps like Khan El Sheeh, Handarat and Al ramel. Additionally, violent destruction and continuous siege on Al Yarmouk camp, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria is still on for more than 6 months. While there are no accurate estimates of the extent of the damage caused to houses and infrastructure of these camps, indicators expect billions of dollars are needed to rebuild the camp.
- Al Yarmouk refugee camp suffers tight siege for the past six months ago, as the regime forces and militia of PFLP General Command prevented freedom of movement for goods and people from and to the camp. Food, medicine and fuel and other basics were denied an entry leaving people under tight siege. With the continuation of the unjust siege on the camp, humanitarian catastrophe is developing, threatening the lives of more than 40 thousands trapped inside it -at least, half of them are Palestinian refugees.
- Rates of internal displacement of refugees are increasing because of the deterioration of the military situation and security. Particularly, the camps which are located on the lines of the clashes. It is estimated that more than 75% of the refugees are displaced from their camps to the inland areas that are more secure. Most of them experienced displacement from one place to another several times.
- The increase of the percentage of displaced refugees outside the borders, whether to neighboring Arab countries or European countries and different parts of the world. There were conflicting estimates on the number of refugees who left the Syrian territory, as large numbers of those legally fleeing to Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan were increased as

well. As for those who fled illegally through land, sea, and air to Europe and other countries, they were even more than the previous numbers mentioned earlier to a level some of international institutions, including UNRWA, as stated by its Commissioner-General, Filippo Grandi, talked about the displacement of one-third of the number of refugees in Syria.

- In addition, the fallout of the conflict exacerbated the tragedy of Palestinians on the humanitarian level, whether those who remained in the Syria or those who left beyond the border. The majority lost life basics. Their situation reached an indescribable level of human misery because of the increasing destitution and extreme poverty. The restrictions on their lives even in the Arab countries doubled their painful ordeal, which prompted a lot of them to ride the seas and oceans to escape the hell of Syria to face death in the drowning water.

2-Legal characterization of violations and the parties responsibility

Palestinian refugees faced several violations of their human rights that could be seen as blatant transgressions of the international humanitarian law and international covenants of human rights, particularly the common third article of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, relating to internal armed conflicts. This bans violent actions against life and all types of killing, mutilation, torture, and maltreatment. Additionally, it forbids violating dignity and deliver verdicts and punishing with no previous trial; conditionally in front of a legal court that pledges all the judicial guarantees. The Second Protocol of the year 1977, attached to fourth Geneva Conventions, came to clearly press on the protection of civilians during armed conflict that are against the international law, though emphasizing, in particular, the prohibition of attack on civilians, and the prohibition of practicing terrorism, blockade, starving, and forcible deportation on them.

The types of violations done to Palestinian refugees formed a remarkable example of violation of the right to live, robbing liberties, torture, displacement by force, and siege with the aim to starve people. These collective punishments are banned by law, and the Syrian regime forces are the major reason behind them, without neglecting the role of the Syrian opposition forces as well. International and local reports of human rights do confirm the responsibility of the regime's forces for the most killings and torture done to the Palestinian victims. Over 90% of the overall population, whether through shelling, shooting (snipers) and torture to death in the regime's prisons that broke the law. Reports also stated that the exodus of thousands of refugees from their camps and homes was due to the regime forces aerial bombing as well as ground. Also, the reports revealed that the regime with some. Palestinian militias are imposing the siege on Yarmouk camp for few months now. And those reports also talk about the responsibility of the opposition forces in the killing and the execution of Palestinians without trials that meet legal standards, and the victims who have fallen due to some random shells bombed in several Palestinian refugee camps. In addition, they forced people to leave the camp of Handarat in masses on 26.04.2013.

It is not exaggeration that many of those violations could be crimes against humanity as they break numerous international charters and conventions. This is especially after what Rome

charter of the International Criminal Court has specified as part of these crimes, which applies to many of the serious violations committed against Palestinian refugees. This include for example, murder, imprisonment, torture, rape, kidnapping, which are classified in the category of "crimes against humanity" when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population with knowledge of the attack ."

Additionally, one can add the serious violations of the Geneva four conventions in 1949 and for the article "3" that is part of this Convention, which is classified as a war crime, "being committed as a plan or policy, or in the context of large-scale military operations". In light of these international crimes that targeted refugees, the Rome Statute requires the principle of individual criminal responsibility, addressing anyone accused of these crimes, charging them in the international criminal courts, and punishing them if they are found individually responsible. Hence comes the importance of documenting these violations and paying legal efforts to bring those responsible ones to international justice to bring justice for the victims no matter how long it takes.

3-Ramifications of protection absence on refugees' legal status

The principle of the protection of civilians who don't directly participate in the violent actions is considered one of the important legal and customary principles. This principle was established in the Geneva four principles of the year 1949 and its second addition for the year 1977 for the sake of international dealing with international and non-international armed conflicts. However, the irony in the situation of the Palestinian refugees is that the protection system did not cover them despite the tragedies they had witnessed during different historical stages of their asylum. Even the exception of Palestinian refugees from the advantages of international protection had proceeded, facing them in early stages. That was when Refugee Convention of the year 1951 excluded them from the state of protection by the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), under the provisions of this Convention, which explicitly stated in the article (1/ d).

"This law does not apply to persons, who are currently receiving assistance from members or bodies of the United Nations, with the exception of the General Commission for Refugees. In case this protection or assistance stopped for one reason or another, and without reaching unresolved status of these people, clearly and ultimately, according to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, then these people will be, of course, to take advantage of this law. "

However, the question that arises inspired by the ordeal of Palestinians in Syria is: **Why is the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) still refusing to end this exception despite the fact that the text of the article allows them to benefit from the international protection system, after a lot of the refugees have lost aid given by (UNRWA)?**

As it is clear, UNRWA is no longer able or willing to deliver aid assistance to refugees in the areas described (seriously dangerous). Even those who fled to the Arab countries where UNRWA is not operating (Egypt for example), the General Commission refuses to register or confess Palestinian refugees. The big hole left by the absence of the international protection system could not reduce its negative effects on the lives of Palestinian refugees, as there were no Arab or regional countries they could resort to.

On the Arabic level, what was stated in the “**Convention of Casablanca**”, issued on 11/09/1965 and sponsored by the League of Arab States at that time, which emphasized the need to treat Palestinians in the Arab countries the same as Arab nationals in terms of accommodation, travel and employment opportunities, retraining the nationality of Palestine, did not change that fact. This was also adopted in the conference of Arab Interior Ministers.

Sadly, many of the Arab countries that signed this convention without reservation are the ones who did various actions of restriction and discrimination against them, which was revealed through the tragedy of the Palestinians in Syria. There were numerous examples in the countries where they have fled in order to have a safe haven. Since the beginning of 2012, Jordan prevented the entry of Palestinians from Syria into its territory. Even those who had Jordanian travel documents were not allowed to enter the country. For example, Cyber city camp run Jordanian authorities near the borders and included dozens of Palestinian families, had become more like a prison, as described by journalists and human rights activists who visited it.

As for Egypt, it did host Palestinian refugees and Syrian refugees in the early months of the Syrian bloody crisis. Yet, end of 2012 and beginning of 2013 was much better as they were allowed into the country. But, as soon as the regime changed in Egypt since the beginning of June, 2013, the country did serious and blatantly discriminatory actions against Palestinian refugees. This included locking/jailing hundreds of them in compelling circumstances of arrest, forcibly deporting dozens and handing them over to the Syrian authorities. Others were deported to Lebanon. That was a flagrant violation of the Convention of Casablanca, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not citizens of the country where they live, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1985.

Lebanon, which had a history of discriminative policies against Palestinians, was no better. It is especially that it includes the largest number of refugees who have come from Syria, where refugees suffer from extremely difficult living conditions by virtue of the laws of Lebanon that deprive Palestinian refugees, in general, of most civil rights, with new restrictions imposed by the Lebanese authorities on the entry of Syrian refugees into its territory. The refugees' state of Diaspora, resulting from deportation, asylum, and immigration contributes in the break of refugees' community, the increase of its humanitarian suffering, and leading it to unknown future.

Finally, perhaps, the situations of the refugees in the light of illegal positions are jam-packed with flagrant practices and violations under “illegal” absence of the international protection system. Additionally, it happened in the light of the significant declining role of UNRWA in providing a helping hand to them, without losing sight of the declining role of their national reference (PLO) and its influence over their current tragedy. These factors altogether led to the dismantling of the legal status they have enjoyed for decades of their asylum to Syria and to their situation today of being unable to face the repercussions of this ordeal. That was due to undermining the legal system in the state in which they resided and the failure of the international community from carrying out its humanitarian and legal responsibilities towards them. This has come to impose intensive effort of various human rights organizations to put pressure on the institutions of the international community for urgent action to protect refugees and to activate their historical rights, particularly the right of return to their homes, whose

application forms real salvation of the asylum and tragedies they face a generation behind generation.

The legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon

Lebanese government deals with Palestinian refugees from Syria as nationals and guests, not as refugees, which means depriving them from foreign aid like opportunities of shelters, immigration, labor and other forms of legal protection, especially that UNRWA did not provide them enough help. Moreover, Palestinian refugees coming from Syria to Lebanon have to pay for visa, which costs \$17, per person, at the point of entry (Lebanese factory) into Lebanese territory.

The presence of people who stayed over two weeks of the duration of their stay are still considered "illegitimate," by the Lebanese law. However, the Lebanese General Security does routinely renew their residence for a month, under the condition that their stay in Lebanon does not exceed a year, which constitutes a major challenge to those who have been in Lebanon for a full year. Then they are in front of the three options only: either to hide in their houses, to leave with their families from Lebanon to Syria, and this is not currently possible, or to pay the amount of \$ 200 for each member of the family under the title "renewal of residence." That is so great fatigue, in light of the crisis inside Lebanon.

What worries Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon is that the actions that govern their presence are mostly not related to what human rights agreements have stated. Recently, the refugee's entering Lebanon has become too hard, and when questioning the Lebanese officials about it, they did not justify that with an official decision issued by any governmental agency, confirming that the "inconsistent" may be the only determiner to grant or not to grant services.

The legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Jordan

Prime Minister of Jordan has pointed that Jordan will not allow the inflow of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Jordan. This goes in harmony with the governmental trends that fear a future plan for the transfer of Palestinian refugees living in Syria to Jordan to settle them there. They are afraid of the idea of an alternative homeland that constitutes a genuine concern among Jordanians. He has added: *"The International law governs our relationship with the refugees, as it does not allow to repulse those asking for survive. However, there are procedures to make sure that these arrivals came for protection, not for political or military objectives, or they were sent as sneakers or to change the place of their migration, such as Palestinian refugees in Syria, originally wishing to come to Jordan, regardless of the circumstances of war ."* He has pointed out that this procedure is to save their rights in Palestine. It is noteworthy that one of the Palestinian refugees who were returned to Syria had been killed, as UNRWA reported on its electronic website, then returned and cancelled the news.

It is noteworthy that half of the Palestinian refugees from Syria to Jordan are enrolled in UNRWA records as residents in Jordan. The General Commissioner of UNRWA has referred to that, noting that these refugees are seen in Jordan as security threats. The agency's report has clarified that many of the Palestinian refugees from Syria are suffering a state of insecurity and

are facing difficulty in terms of civil operations, such as registering births and having access to government services, and they are at risk of permanent forcible return to Syria, which leads to the increase of negative coping mechanisms that is too dangerous.

The Agency notes that the protection of those has the attention and priority, and it calls upon the government to stick to the international legal principles of non-forcible deportation and equal treatment of all refugees.

Jerry Samson, a researcher at Human Rights Watch, says that all the escapees from Syria, whether they were Syrians or Palestinians, have the right to seek asylum in Jordan and move freely within it, and they should not be forced to return to the war zone. He has pointed out that the way of locking Palestinians in Cyber City, without chances of release, corresponds with the definition of the concept of detention as provided by the organization, which is contrary to international law. It has already led to the return of some of the refugees to Syria while some of them compellingly joined the free army in order to preserve their lives, and some were killed as a result of that.

According to UNRWA, the Jordanian Interior ministry has refused to grant residence permits for 1600 Palestinians who hold Syrian travel documents at the beginning of the Syrian crisis. This is a violation of the law and human rights as seen by the manager of Jozoor Center for human rights, who has described it with "flagrant violation of human dignity" which violates treaties and international laws of Jordan.

Some of the detainees in Cyber City demanded that the Palestinian embassy give them Palestinian passports to be able to return to Palestine, but the ambassador apologized for not possessing proper identity papers. It is noteworthy that the embassy has provided 6,000 food packages for Palestinian refugees from Syria.

UNRWA report documented the prevention of 73 Palestinian refugees who have Syrian papers from entering Jordan since the beginning of the year 2013. The Jordanian Interior Ministry issued orders to stop the sponsoring of Palestinians who have Syrian passing papers, justifying that by closing the way of their resettlement in order to confirm not accepting the principle of the alternative homeland. It also confirms providing all the services to them in the places they live in (226 in Cyber City.)

The legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Libya

Palestinian Refugees from Syria coming to Libya especially those who entered illegally, face many legal and administrative problems. Most notably, the biggest problem is the absence of entry stamps on their passports, or having fake stamps on them, which is a great danger to them, especially in front of the security barriers scattered in all regions of Libya. To settle this situation, the refugee must reconcile with the concerned authorities, costing up to \$ 300 for each passport.

They suffer from difficult procedures required to obtain a residence permit, whose possession requires to pay up to \$ 1,200, in addition to other papers, such as health papers that confirm his free-disease condition, a certificate of the market and the digital label of the car that characterizes that the driver is Palestinian.

The refugee in Libya has difficulty in registering new births because there is no embassy for Syria along with the inability of the Syrian National Coalition and Palestinian embassy to take any step in this direction. The problem of passports expiration and possibility of renewal also arises. However, recently, Palestinian embassy has proceeded to resolve this matter through granting Palestinian passport issued by the “Palestinian Authority” to those who have expired passports, but this procedure may cause problems for those who have it when returning to Syria.

The legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt

As for Egypt, it did host Palestinian refugees in the early months of the Syrian bloody events, without giving them - contrary to official statements - the same treatment given to the Syrian refugees. As soon as the regime changed in Egypt since the beginning of June, 2013, the country did serious and blatantly discriminatory actions against Palestinian refugees, including locking hundreds of them in compelling circumstances of arrest, forcibly deporting dozens and handing them over to the Syrian authorities, and others were deported to Lebanon. That was a flagrant violation of the Convention of Casablanca, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not citizens of the country where they live, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1985.

In terms of residency, procedures for granting residence permits have varied between the various Egyptian estates. While the operation took place in the city of Fayoum in 17 days, it was done in Matrouh in nearly a month; in Cairo, it lasted for four or six months (6 October City is an example). Moreover, duration of residence varied according to the reason of residence granting, as it was given to those who have a student at school for a year, but they were limited to three months in other situations.

The legal status of Palestinian refugees in Turkey

The Turkish government does not acknowledge Palestinian refugees from Syria, which comes in contrary with the international norms. Therefore, they do not have any rights, and their presence is illegal. Additionally, they are not covered by UNRWA offices or UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Turkish authorities have refused to stamp the travel documents for Palestinian refugees from Syria, and they have apologized for not granting the refugee a visa to enter its territory but in exceptional conditions only.

The non-registration of Palestinian refugees in the records of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) , and the restrictions practiced by the Turkish government result in a range of risks, including:

- Possibility of returning any Palestinian refugee to the Syrian territory or making the refugee enters into refugee camps forcibly.
- Inability of the Palestinian refugees to depart from the Turkish ports and airports as there have no visa or residence on the passport, and thus they become subject to detention for some time and then get deported to Syria.

- Palestinian refugees are not registered and are not recognized in the Turkish territory or by the governor; therefore any accident or crime against them will not be the responsibility of the Turkish side nor the United Nations organizations in Turkey.
- The inability of the Palestinian- Syrian refugees of getting renewal, prolonging their passports or taking out new passports for their children, or for the ones who do not have passports already because of the refusal of the consulate in Istanbul, for they have illegally entered Turkey.
- The inability of the Palestinian –Syrian refugee to authenticate any official papers or enroll their children or newborns to add them to the books of the family.

➤ **The legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Sweden**

The legal status of refugees is divided into four levels:

1. Refugees who are waiting for response from the Immigration Service.
2. Refugees who has temporary residence.
3. Refugees with a decision of expulsion and deportation.
4. Refugees who has permanent residence.

Refugees from groups 1, 2, and 4 get during this period a complete custody, most notably housing, food, medical care and education for children, till their files are totally closed if they are from the first and second categories. Moreover, they get a lawyer for free before the Swedish courts, and they have the right to appeal the court's decision if there is rejection.

There are obstacles, facing refugee, such as waiting so long to get a decision from the Immigration Service, or to obtain a temporary residence. Which means the fall of the right of family reunion, or the difficulty of obtaining housing, particularly within the major big cities. That is according to the housing policy in Sweden. However, the refugees coming from Syria have a great opportunity to get the right of residence permission and work by the Department of Immigration Court, in September, 2013.

Risks facing Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Sweden

A-In case of refusing the asylum application and obtaining deportation order:

In this case, asylum seeker becomes illegal, and may actually get deported to his country, putting him/her in danger if they refuse to cooperate with official bodies. It should be noted that we have not observed these cases in Sweden so far.

B- Refugees who have fingerprints taken in other countries:

Those are suffering major problems; authorities consider their cases based on the country where their fingerprints were taken. Therefore, they do not deal with them as refugees even if they have been treated in the early days as refugees, and they have received all what any refugee could get. However, this period is very limited so that authorities can recognize the original country of the owner of the fingerprint within minutes, and then the process of deportation arrangements

begins. This suffering has emerged in its highest level to those who came across the sea to Italy and then fled from there towards Sweden. Families of those are considered the most affected by this procedure, as they are deprived from privileges like reunion and other things.

Part 3: Humanitarian Conditions, the New Nakba

The Humanitarian conditions of Palestinian refugees in Syria and those who fled the country to Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, and Sweden.

Palestinian refugees are distributed among camps and gatherings, which witnessed bloody incidents in different areas inside and outside Syria in light of the continued conflict there for nearly three years, leading to the increase of their suffering, affecting their social and economic conditions, and resulting in the deterioration of their humanitarian and living conditions as well.

- **Humanitarian situation and living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Syria**

The deteriorating security events in Syria led to "a new catastrophe" for many of the Palestinian refugees there in the camps. The number of Palestinian victims after the war in Syria increased to more than 1982 victims despite the fact that the percentage of refugees from the Syrian population did not exceed (2.5%), while more than three-quarters of them were displaced in different parts inside and outside Syria. Their homes were destroyed while there was a notable decline in UNRWA services that suffer from lack of funding of which donor countries and the international community as a whole is responsible.

The tragedy did not stop here, as Palestinian refugees from Syria were displaced in different directions, getting scattered in more than thirty countries around the world. They faced a lot of legal restrictions which limited their freedom of movement between the various Arab states. This was what made them vulnerable to the greed of smugglers. The crises pushed them towards the sea as the only option, searching for a safe place in Europe, or other compulsory exiles after the hardships they went through in places of refuge, especially in Arab countries. Some died drowning in the sea, while others got their whole families scattered in more than one country, as media reports issued stories and terrifying tales about the deadly incidents of the sea.

According to statistics published by the activist and human rights groups Palestinian bodies in Yarmouk refugee camp, the largest percentage of those who remained in the camp cannot leave because of the lack of alternatives, or the ability to pay rent elsewhere. Add to this, breadwinners who are capable of production have no chances of having job opportunities. And staying in their houses at the camp make them at risk of being bombed due to fighting.

Later, they ended up becoming victims of a cruel blockade that may eventually led them to starve to death or under the barbaric bombing. They always had two options that are worse than each other!

The current situation, its results, and current and expected challenges

Palestinian refugee camps in Syria bear difficult conditions at all levels; these camps are no longer good to live in, as they turned into battlefields. Now the streets and neighborhoods are under the control of snipers and exposed to constant shelling by the parties of the conflict in Syria, in particular, the forces of the Syrian regime that continue their violent aerial bombardment with various types of weapons. The regime still imposes a blockade on Yarmouk refugee camp for more than six months, and denies food and medicine for the camp's residents. In the light of the intensification of battles, there is a curfew, shading over camps and nearby areas due to the continuous shooting and snipers fire targeting any moving object.

This led to a severe humanitarian crisis, in terms of running out of the basic necessities like food, medicine. These are other factors that motivated the refugees to leave the camps and search for other safer areas, where the basic necessities of life are available. In addition to the deprivation of food, medical care, stable security and work to provide food for the families in the camp. The majority of the camps in Syria are lacking the basic services like water, electricity and communications. Often, electricity is in blackout partially or completely, in the neighborhoods of the camp for long hours, accompanied by the cutoff of water and communication.

Communication and cellular networks are all turned off when there are intensive military campaigns, and the bombing gets increased without revealing their causes.

Recently, several skin and internal diseases have spread out as a result of the lack of water which is suitable for human use. Also, because of the piles of garbage that were not removed. Moreover, dogs, cats, rats, insects, flies, and mosquitoes are all over the place, which would transfer many diseases to the population in the absence of the lowest elements of a hygiene environment.

To sum up in points what is happening in the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria and the places from which they fled, here is the following

- Nearly 20% of the rest are just inside the camps in Syria, within miserable environmental and health conditions that differ in number from one camp to another.
- Yarmouk camp is under severe blockade since six months, with the loss of the necessities like food, which pushed people to rely on grass and leaves. This status has pushed people to eat the meat of dogs and cats. The lack of children's vaccines and necessary medicines caused the spread of many diseases, which continues to threaten the lives of thousands, while the hunger victims came to be 82 people.
- Palestinians in Syria are still paying their blood of their children daily, through the continuous sniping, shelling and clashes.

- Continuing the migration of families out of the camps and some of them migrate outside Syria.
- Many people died during traveling outside of Syria, especially to Europe by sea, as happened in the Libyan boat off the coast of Italy.
- Palestinian refugees, both inside and outside Syria, suffer from tragic conditions, especially in terms of humanitarian and legal sides and specifically, in the Arab countries they arrive to.
- Palestinian refugees from Syria live in Arab countries as victims of the controversial case of the clash between the UNRWA and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, especially in the countries that lie outside the areas of UNRWA activities.
- **The humanitarian and living situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon**

Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon started to distribute themselves among their relatives and friends who opened their homes, sympathizing with their ordeal. Some of them rented a house inside and outside the camps with prices ranged between \$200-400\$ inside the camps and \$500-700\$ within the cities, while charities and community institutions in some camps and Lebanese cities established temporary shelters for stranded refugees, who could not find a host or able to rent a place to live in. A center of humanitarian relief for development in Bekaa area was opened three shelters: the first is in Al-galeel camp in the swimming pool and the cemetery that includes 70 family members out of 400 people. The second is in Alomarya, and it includes 20 family members with a total of 100 people. As for the third, it is in Majdal Anjar, housing 18 family members of 90 people. There are also 20 families within Algaleel camp in the offices of a number of Palestinian factions, supervised by the Palestinian factions in cooperation with humanitarian relief.

In the city of Sydaa, there are several shelters inside Ein al-hilweh. The most important one is Bader committee compound, which includes several communities of refugees like Bader kindergarten that includes about 25 families, Alkarama tents community, which includes 64 tents inhabited by 84 families of 400 people, Al bayt el abyad includes 20 families, and al bayt el maskoon has 15 families. In addition, Al-kefah center, which is supervised by Al-forqan committee, includes 43 families of 179 people, and Al-bahaa kindergarten that has 37 families, that is 177 people.

In the city of Soor, there are many of these centers. In Borj Ashamaly camp, some of the important figures of the village of Loubieh in the camp turned a wedding hall into a shelter that has 14 families of Palestinian refugees from Syria through dividing it into small rooms suitable for living.

Moreover, they have coordinated with the owners of houses that are not fully ready to inhabit to give to displaced families after providing them with water tank, bathroom and doors . As for the north area, there are no shelters in the two camps, and the refugees found shelter in homes or garages they rented with \$200-400\$. In Nahr al-Bared are what are called (containers) , established for the displaced ones due to Albared calamity, 2007, which are metal houses with low environmental standards and involve health and social problems, having 150 displaced families from Syria as inhabitants. Those centers mostly share the lack of the lowest average of necessities of life, including: infrastructure and basic services.

In terms of inhabiting houses, some of the displaced families from Syria to Lebanon have tried to cope with the new situation. They have endeavored to gather in one house to share the fare. Some families have their members, about 14 people, live in one room, which increased the suffering and led to the emergence of social and family problems, which led some of them to decide to return to Syria, with all its risks.

In the relief side, there are dozens of institutions and associations of relief all over Lebanon to help refugees, but a study declared by "Aid Society of American Near East Refugee- Anera" at the end of March, 2013, included a sample of 669 families, indicated that 82% of the families receive food aid from different directions, but only 3% of them find the aid enough, while other families resort to buying eating and drinking needs. Similarly, 70% of the families cannot provide three meals a day for their members.

The growing asylum process in light of the weakness of the potential and scarcity of resources experienced by charities, as well as the needs of the Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon, which is already suffering from chronic humanitarian humanitarian, led to a decline in the relief work, increasing the suffering of Palestinian refugees from Syria, and exacerbated in many cases, in straining the relationship with the host communities.

In terms of talking about the health side, UNRWA provides health services for Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon, who are registered by them in Syria, just like the Palestinian residents who are registered in Lebanon. The health services were primarily provided on primary care, as well as referrals to hospitals they have contracted with to have some surgeries and births.

However, there are differences UNRWA did not recognize; the second asylum was accompanied by changes in the new refugee community, such as unemployment, poverty, difficulty of providing housing, the high cost of living, etc... it is still in need of quick and significant solutions until the moment.

The PRCS offers health services and first aid by 50% in children and women's clinics, and some private health centers or those related to associations or the Palestinian factions in the camps offer discounts on treatment up to 100%.

In return, the following observations can be recorded in relation to the health service for refugees from Syria:

- UNRWA does not provide medical expenses resulting from emergency incidents as accidents, while partially cover some surgeries, such as open heart surgeries that refugee is unable to afford their costs in most cases.

- Refugee may get treatment at a low price or for free, but purchasing medicines is an obstacle, especially in light of the high cost of drugs in Lebanon and not affording the prices. Moreover, UNRWA does not fully provide these meds they need, and if available, they are available in quantities that are not enough for the patient to cover the monthly needs (such as sprayers for asthma or chronic diseases).
- There are no fixed medical points in the shelters that include dozens of families, as well as there is no periodical check to the centers' visitors to reduce the aggravation of some chronic diseases, and the spread of some infectious diseases, which may be transmitted rapidly in places of mass gatherings and housing .
- There are some treatments and procedures necessary for the refugees that are not provided by UNRWA clinics (such as the withdrawal of the nerve from teeth and the fragmentation of urinary stones from outside the body)

As for education, it has been the biggest obsession for Palestinian refugees from Syrian to Lebanon due to the importance of education and its role in the development of their situation and the building of a better future for their children. UNRWA is currently registering 5100 Palestinian students from Syria in its schools and gives them private classes. However, only 30% of the children who are still at the age of studying go to schools, while 70% are at home. This is because of the high prices of living needs and the unrest state of most of the families.

The numbers of college and intermediate institutes' students of the refugees in Lebanon are estimated to be 300 students, distributed among different camps and Palestinian communities. The statistics of a Palestinian –Syrian committee in Lebanon point out that ten students of the 300 could register in Lebanese colleges, while others could not because of their financial circumstances, administrative complications, and the distinction of curriculums between Syria and Lebanon.

Trying to figure out the nature of the difficulties faced by Palestinian refugee students from Syria to Lebanon, it became clear that they are all about the distinction between the Syrian and Lebanese curriculums, as the Lebanese curriculums primarily depend on a foreign language in teaching, while the Syrian do not. Moreover, the lessons were randomly picked without a previous study (as some lessons were chosen and others were deleted) this random choice made the curriculum lose its general context. Adding to all of that, the teachers are not from UNRWA staff, and the hiring was mostly with no consideration of experience, certificates, and major matching. Therefore, every teacher explains the curriculum from his or her own point of view.

In this context, it is noteworthy to point out that a group of volunteers from Palestinian refugee teachers from Syria aimed to establish more than one educational center to teach the Syrian curriculum to prep and high school students, for the two branches: scientific and literary. Some of the students could study the Syrian curriculum in Lebanon and then have the exams in Syria.

- **The humanitarian and living situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Jordan**

As time passed, Jordan started to impose restrictions on the entry of Palestinians to the country. That was according to Amnesty International that criticized the attitude of Jordan and considered

it a violation of the international law, especially of what was related to the compulsorily return of refugees to Syria, expressing its worries about it.

The organization talked in a report, in July, 2013, about the Jordanian officials' obstruction of the passing of 4 categories of refugees coming to the country. Those were: Palestinians, Iraqis coming from Syria, refugees with no families, and refugees having no identification papers.

The organization pointed out that their research showed that the Palestinian refugees from Syria are privately exposed to restrictions and that many of them get arrested by force in Cyber City compound, where they get help less than the aid given to Syrian refugees (34\$ monthly opposed to 100\$ for the Syrians) Moreover, they are not allowed to leave the place of detention but only in special cases and with guarantees that they would be back if some want to visit their relatives in Jordan.

The organization's report indicated an example of the suffering of the detainees in the refugee camps coming from Syria. That included the crowded places of their shelters, the inconvenience of the places to be lived in, toilets used commonly by a lot of families with no lights in the night, and the lack of the lowest standards of health. Kids also suffer from the fact that they cannot go to schools. Additionally, the detention areas do not have drinking water, which has caused the spread of some diseases. Moreover, the suffering increases, as refugees are not recognized by the commission as refugees, and 75% of them are not accepted in the Directorate of Social Development, for they do not have document of medical inability. In addition, the ones who could enter the country face the hardship of paying the fare of the houses they have rented. The academic status of most students got lower and they could not work due to the crafty and agricultural trends of the majority of the refugees. A lot of them have lost their work in Syria, as they cannot go back because of the destruction of their houses and businesses. At the level of the services delivered by UNRWA to the Palestinian refugees from Syria, 1598 students are now receiving education in UNRWA schools and around 927 of them registered last year opposed to 651 students who got registered in 2012-2013.

As for the health level, the refugees can get the medical care in UNRWA clinics and health centers. Moreover, UNRWA covers the medical transfers in the governmental hospitals. The number of refugees' visits to clinics this year is 12.598, and the total expenses of UNRWA on Palestinian refugees coming from Syria are 1.8 million \$ within 30.000 payments divided in 2013. UNRWA has called for help with 7.1 million dollars for this year to deliver protection and social and humanitarian services to 10.000 refugees, according to estimations of the end of the year. UNRWA has pointed out the arrival of donations of 79%, which is two thirds of the help call, in addition to other pledges.

Organizations supporting Palestinian refugees coming from Syria to Jordan

- UNRWA: delivering food, urgent help of 70 Dinars for each person every three months.
- UNICEF: delivering school bags and some blankets.
- Interpal: delivering bags, Eid clothes and sacrifices, and covers through Syrian Green Cross.

A comparison between the Palestinian and Syrian refugees:

A-The Syrian refugee:

The Syrian refugee receives from the UNHCR, house rent, 100 Dinars in summer, 180 Dinars in winter, and 25 Dinars monthly for shopping and food purchase, getting help from the opposition institution in return for death or injury in the family.

B-The Palestinian refugee:

The Palestinian refugee is not acknowledged by the Syrian opposition institutions that deliver some help in the refugee camps in Jordan nor by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is under UNRWA's administration. This deprives the Palestinian refugee from any future amends.

- **The humanitarian and living situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Egypt**

Relief institutions in Egypt delivered some aid to Palestinian refugees from Syria coming to Egypt; most of the aid was (mattresses, covers, furniture, and food parcels.). Some institutions have contributed in the payment of houses' rental for the most impoverished families. For example, Etelaf al khayr and beit el eila are two Egyptian institutions in Cairo. As for the big cities, the relief work was to some extent better, whether at the level of Egyptian or at the level of institutions. To illustrate, the Salafi movement in Almatrooh city delivered houses for free to them for 4 months in row. They also delivered food parcels and contributed in improving their administrative affairs and finding jobs to the supporters of the families. Noting that the refugee is officially forbidden from working, as when the Palestinian refugee got the annual residence, it was a humiliation not to allow him to work. Nevertheless, Palestinian- Syrian refugees worked in free businesses and opened markets, yet everybody was doubting the unbalance of wages and living, especially that all were paying high fares for the renting of the houses they lived in. The fare of one house in Cairo, 6 October City, was 2000-2500 Egyptian pounds, equally 300-350 US dollars. In other cities, it got to be 600-1500 Egyptian pounds, which made 100-200 \$.

As for education, the Egyptian government issued decisions to make Syrian refugees equal to Egyptian citizens in the basic rights, including education; however, those decisions did not include Palestinians from Syria until the Egyptian ministry of education made a decision to treat the Palestinian refugees according to the decision of treating the Syrian of its primary phases before college. However, the legal problems did not end to that point. University study challenges were still in front of them as they were considered foreigners, which resulted in high expenses no refugee could afford.

Granting residence was not undergoing fixed laws; therefore, 80% of the Palestinian refugees remained with no legal residence. Consequently, an illegal status prevailed in the country, which was solved by displacing the refugees in different directions inside and outside Egypt.

As for the health level, the Palestinian refugee got treatment in the Egyptian hospitals and clinics just like the Egyptian citizen. Additionally, some of the charities in Egypt adopted some of the expensive surgeries. The Syrian coalition established clinics with low prices delivered the same treatment to the Palestinian refugees equal to the Syrians. All these facilities, though limited, got ended and converted to the opposite, including: chasing, prevention, and incitement with political unrest in Egypt after the incident of July, 3rd, 2013.

Organizations/bodies supporting Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Egypt:

In addition to the relief organizations in Egypt, the Palestinian refugees received aid from other institutions like:

- **Palestinian Embassy in Cairo:** With the entry of some of the Palestinian families to Cairo, some volunteers from the refugees themselves went to the Palestinian Embassy and called upon doing something actions to help those families. Therefore, an emergency committee emerged, aiming at registering the Palestinian- Syrian families in the embassy, and then checking out their needs and hardships. The Palestinian embassy has provided aid only once, estimated to be 1,000 pounds for the family and 100 pounds for children. The total provided by the Embassy of the amount of material help reached to be two million Egyptian pounds, according to what the Palestinian embassy clarified in a statement issued on Friday on 26.04.2013, "
- **UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNRWA:** UNHCR rejected registering Palestinian refugees from Syria in their records and denied them the right of protection granted to Syrian refugees, justifying that by saying that Palestinian refugees fall under the custody of UNRWA, while the later rejected to offer any assistance for the fact that Egypt is outside the five fields of the work of the international Agency. In a nutshell, Palestinian refugees, by this decision, were deprived from aid given to the Syrian refugees.
- **Hamas:** Hamas had no custody on the Palestinian refugees from Syria, arriving to Egypt, due to the lack of official representation in Egypt despite the fact that there are many of its leaders present in Cairo. Hamas has worked through its relations with the Freedom and Justice Party, which represents the ruling party, and social and Egyptian relief assistance institutions to deliver aid within the available capabilities. A committee called Tawasul (contacting Palestinians and Syrians in Egypt) was established to facilitate communication with them and provide them with help . Dr. Mousa Abu Marzouk explained in an interview in this regard that " *Hamas has responsibility towards the Palestinian- Syrian refugees in Egypt , and we have provided what we could, whether at the level of relief or at the level of communication with all stakeholders. We have formed in this regard a committee to pursue their affairs, closely.*" The movement, through this committee, delivered some financial assistance to the poorest families and families

suspended on the Egyptian-Libyan border and lived in the city of Marsa Matrouh in the west of the country; however, this remained linked to the political situation in Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood topped its ruling matter and practically ended by the transformations and unrests that occurred in the middle of 2013.

- **The humanitarian and living situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Libya**

A number of Palestinian refugees from Syria could arrive to Libya, hoping to get job opportunities. What contributed in that was the old existence of Palestinians in Libya, as their number got to be 10000-15000; they had wages ranged between 60-100 dinars for craftsmen, which equaled 50-80\$ per day. However, what is harming the refugee the most is the high prices of renting houses that range between 600-1000 \$ for the big house, and 300-500\$ for the small. This is burdening the Palestinian refugees, as they pay all of their income to the rent and living, particularly if there is one employed person in the house, which is the major case.

Palestinians are treated in the Libyan clinics and hospitals just like Libyan citizens, as the medical services are delivered to them for free. This was arranged by previous decisions that are still valid till now for Palestinian refugees in general. This special exception for Palestinians is clear in the taking out of the health card, as they get that card and have checkups in the same place they Libyan citizens get their cards from. As for the rest of Arab and foreign communities, they have their checkups in a special place. The Palestinian refugees get necessary meds and treatment and surgeries for free in all governmental hospitals.

The Palestinian student in Libya is treated like the Libyan citizen and joins all the stages of school, including: primary, preparatory, and high school, in all public schools and for free. As for university study, he undergoes the same that the Libyan gets through, as the university fees do not exceed 100 dinars or even less.

However, this situation is not as perfect as it seems. Weapons and insecurity prevail in Libya, as a number of Palestinians in Libya went through killing and robbery. In this way, they go through whatever affects the Libyans; yet, the biggest problem for Palestinian refugees from Syria is their legal status, for most of them illegally entered the country, sneaking through borders with Egypt; therefore, they are not able to have a legal residence, leaving direct effects on their ability to engage themselves in the labor market and moving within the country through the borders they face everywhere. All of that pushed a number of them to leave the country to different places where Europe was the most hosting for them through deadly boats that killed a lot of them and are still having victims from the Libyan coasts until today.

Supporting organizations for Palestinian refugees from Syria in Libya

There are different supports for Palestinian refugees in Libya who works for the like:

- **The UN High Commissioner for Refugees:** In contrary with the attitude of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Egypt, the commission in Libya did register the Palestinian refugees from Syria and granted them a refugee card and legal protection. The commission cooperates with the Palestinian Embassy and the Association of the Syrian community in Libya in managing their affairs.
- **Palestinian embassy in Tripoli:** the role played by the embassy is influential secondary role. Its work is limited to emergency cases and when Palestinian refugees need some identification papers and when issuing Palestinian passports to those who got their document lost or expired. Adding to that, it plays role in the ratification of some of the required documents to the authorities, concerning education, health, accommodation, departure and return.
- **Association of the Syrian community in Libya:** The Association registers Palestinian refugees with their Syrian counterparts and significantly cooperates with the UNHCR and the embassy regarding Palestinians. It has provided relief assistance in cooperation with the Libyan relief bodies for all the ones registered in their records. The aid is often food parcels, some furniture, household items and clothing. They have extensive records and branches in major cities of Libya despite the weak potentials they have. The Association follows the Syrian opposition coalition.

The humanitarian and living situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Turkey

Palestinian refugees in Turkey suffer from the deprivation of social and health insurances or even the aid delivered by Turkish associations and international organizations because they are not registered by the High commissioner for Refugees and UNRWA does not deliver any services to them, for they are outside the fields of its work.

Most of the Palestinian refugees entered Turkey through the northern borders with Syria and in an illegal way, for the Turkish embassies have prevented giving Palestinian refugees from Syria a visa. This imposes legal challenges like joining colleges and having jobs. This pushes a lot of them to consider it as “border to Europe” through deadly boats that had accidents which killed tens of people who wanted security and a decent life.

Part 4: UNRWA, UNHCR and Palestinian Refugees from Syria

A- The responsibility of UNRWA towards Palestinian- Syrian refugee "challenges and prospects"

Introduction:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees was established in the Near East "UNRWA", according to the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations No. 302 (D - 4) dated on 12/08/1949, to work as a specialized, temporary agency. It was conditioned that its mandate gets renewed every three years. The last renewal is extended until 30.06.2014. The decision of establishment was taken after the plight of Palestine in 1948, and the Zionist gangs' action of dismissing Palestinians from their villages and towns and the displacement of about 935 thousand Palestinians who became refugees in UNRWA's five areas of operation (West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan). However, UNRWA, in 1950 when it started its tasks, adopted the numbers of the United Nations committee regarding Palestine, whose estimation was around 760,000 refugees. That happened according to the report done by the committee and presented to the General committee of the UN in 1949. Ever since that time, the international organization considers UNRWA services delivered only to the refugees that are registered in its records since 1-5-1950. It did not include the Palestinians who had to leave Palestine after that date. Moreover, it did not have in its records any Palestinian refugee who resorted to other countries, particularly to Iraq, Egypt and other Arab and foreign countries. The work of UNRWA expanded ever since that time so that it became the most significant of the United Nations' programs, as the number of Palestinian refugees who underwent its mandate was 5,271,893 registered refugees. Additionally, UNRWA hired more than 29,000 employees in the five fields of its work till the date 1-12-2013. In return, the Palestinian refugee cause remained till now in the international forums, thanks to UNRWA, unlike other asylum causes that ended long time ago.

According to the decision of establishing UNRWA, The agency has two basic functions: the first is helping refugees on the level of providing health services , education , protection, advocacy , development, loan programs and the fight against poverty , and the second is consulting the concerned governments until there is no need to provide such assistance . The establishment of the agency was to serve two purposes: socio-economic, to provide aid, and political to highlight the problem of refugees and to have the Agency as a witness of the tragedy of asylum and displacement. Therefore, "UNRWA" is the international eyewitness of the Palestinian calamity to, and it has the international responsibility towards the issue of Palestinian refugees until their return.

"UNRWA" has defined the Palestinian refugee as "a person who was living in Palestine during the period from 01.06.1946 until 15.05.1948, and who lost his home and means of living as a result of the 1948 war," and "UNRWA" has defined the camp as "a patch land allocated by the host authorities to UNRWA in order to provide accommodation for the refugees of Palestine and the establishment of facilities that meet their needs." The agreements identified the reality of

these camps and their real estate borders, and the number has reached 58 camps (12 camps in Lebanon, 9 camps in Syria, 10 camps in Jordan, 19 camps in the West Bank, 8 camps in Gaza.)

The statistics of the Palestinian refugees according to UNRWA, 1-1-2013

Areas of UNRWA work	The total of the refugees registered in Syria	Registered Refugees' number	Number of camps
Jordan	369,949	2,110,114	10
Lebanon	238,528	474,053	12
Syria	159,303	528,711	9
The west Bank	216,403	898,703	19
Gaza	540,515	1,263,312	8
The total	1,524,698	5,271,893	58

Demographic and geographic distribution of the refugees in Syria

As a result of the plight of Palestine in 1948, approximately 90 thousand Palestinian refugees arrived to the Syrian Arab Republic. Some estimation may exceed a hundred thousand. According to the statistic of the first of January, 2013 , the number doubled several times ; UNRWA provides services to more than 528 711 Palestinian refugees registered in Syria , but this number does not include all refugees. There are categories which are not registered with the agency for various reasons. Some estimations suggest that the real number of Palestinian refugees in Syria, according to the estimations of the civil society organizations and committees working in the "the right of return" associations, is up to 600 thousand refugees. This means that the Palestinian refugees are representing a rate of 2.8% of the total population of Syria, who are roughly 23 million people.

The Palestinian refugees are scattered in nine major camps: (Daraa, Khan Ashikh, Khan tha al Noon, Jormana, Sabina, Homs, Hama, Qaber al set, and Neirab), but the new website launched by the Agency



UNRWA and the crisis in Syria

Two months after the outbreak of the crisis in March 2011, the official spokesperson of the UNRWA, Christopher Gunness, expressed UNRWA's concern about the repercussions of the events in Syria on the Palestinian refugees there. He urged the Commissioner General, Filippo Grandi, to "preserve the neutrality of the Palestinian refugees in Syria, so that the fulfillment of their needs continues." He in his speech to all parties in Syria, including refugees: *"It is very important in the current situation to respect the neutrality of the Palestinian refugees from everyone in this conflict ... and to stay out of this conflict, as refugees have their delicate situation."* Until June 2012, camps formed a model for the reception of displaced Syrians and Palestinians fleeing from places of battles, the Yarmouk refugee camp - which was comprised of about 800 thousand of the population between the Palestinian refugees and Syrian residents – was the ideal to embrace the families, sharing homes and providing all assistance to the

accommodation centers of the displaced, food, medical aid, relief for the injured people and the other things. It turned into a safe shelter for fleeing Syrians and the Palestinians, until the population number reached about a million and three hundred thousand.

With the aggravation of the crisis and the growing numbers of displaced people to the camp and other camps and areas, the residents were forced to open the UNRWA's schools to accommodate more displaced people, which required the need for coordination in provision services to displaced refugees by UNRWA, the Palestinian factions, people's committees and institutions. The movement of the displacement of the Palestinian refugees started to appear, particularly from Daraa camp towards Jordan, the closest geographically to Syria. Small numbers arrived to Lebanon in waves following each other.

UNRWA disparity attention and follow-up to the conditions of Palestinian refugees displaced, either geographically or administratively. In Jordan, said director of operations, "UNRWA" Sandra Mitchell, in the month of November 2011, that *"the agency has developed a plan to receive displaced Syria to Jordan , although the Agency's installations such as schools, health and social centers are open to them , and that the agency is willing to provide assistance to students , if not available in government schools."* With the continued influx of displaced people Advisory Commission of UNRWA held an emergency meeting in Jordan on 6/18/2012 to look into the impact of providing nutrition, education and health services for Palestinian refugees. Representative of the Commissioner General of the UNRWA, Peter Ford, said that *"UNRWA provides to refugees from Syria Jordan to health and education services and food aid , and there are those who joined them in their schools , and benefited from health centers , while some of them live in camps set up by the government of Jordan , near the border with Syria , and therefore also benefit from the services provided by them."*

UNRWA Media spokesperson, Anwar Abu Sakina, *"The Palestinian refugees living in Syria who have taken refuge in Jordan since the outbreak of events in Syria, came to our offices to seek services, and we have complete information"* She added, *"As for needy families, we give the cash and food aid every three months, such as Palestinian refugees in Jordan."*

UNRWA appealed to the Jordanian authorities to improve the treatment of the Palestinian refugee alike this received by Syrian refugees in the country. The agency entered into a serious dialogue with the Jordanian government about Palestinian refugees fleeing from Syria since June 2012, and is still ongoing.

The role of UNRWA in Jordan was limited although the number of displaced refugees is big. The agency coordinated with local and international NGOs, and the Qatari Red Crescent providing medical aid and services to refugees in the camps. UNRWA was accused of not doing enough to help Palestinian refugees. An activist stated that *"UNRWA, since the beginning of the refugee movement in Syria to Lebanon, the UNRWA hasn't offered the least services, and hasn't done its duty towards them although it's responsible party."* Even inside Syria, the residents of Yarmouk Camp burned the flag of the UNRWA protesting against not providing the services.

Thabet organization for the Right of Return held a workshop in Beirut entitled *"UNRWA and the required role in the Syrian crisis"* on 5/9/2012. Researchers, experts and representatives of the UNRWA had participated. The most important in their recommendation was *"the participants expressing their dissatisfaction for the UNRWA deferment of expediting the provision of services for the Palestinian displaced, especially that the process of emigration*

between the areas of the UNRWA's operations, except for the services that were expected to be provided for the emigrants inside Syria, requires the continuity of provision of services. Expressing their disapproval for the donor countries' not responding to the UNRWA's calls for the relief of the Palestinian displaced refugees. However, they responded to the calls of help of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to rescue the Syrian displaced, assuring the necessity of the UNRWA taking its role that it's committed to in the relief and employment of the Palestinian emigrants preserving the dignity of the Palestinian refugee and enabling him of his right of return with their striving to preserve and protect the UNRWA and insuring practicing their supervisory role of civil UNRWA organization, in partnership with UNRWA, to straighten out the compass, to improve performance and to contribute to the process of reformation."

Another workshop organized by the rights of the refugees' center/ Aadoon, and Aadoon Group in Syria in coordination with the international Palestinian coalition for the right of return. The workshop was titled, "*the repercussions of the Syrian crisis on the Palestinian refugees in Syria*" in which the assistant director of the UNRWA's operation in Syria, Abdullah Alham, gave a paperwork on services of UNRWA in Syria. The workshop recommendation called on donor countries to fulfill their financial commitments so UNRWA can cover the needs of the immigrant refugees.

Emergency Calls

UNRWA needs 150 Million Dollar to cover the needs of the Palestinian displaced from Syria till the end of 2013. This has pushed UNRWA to keep launching campaigns for donations so it fulfills the needs of the Palestinian displaced from Syria. And indeed, some countries responded to the calls. On 5/9/2013 to 23/10/ 2013, for example, \$5 million from Japan, and \$18 million from the US while the EU donated 6 million euros. Saudia Arabia donated 10 million and Britain 25 million. However, this doesn't cover what is needed funds by UNRWA still needs \$ 58, 3 million.

Distribution of the displaced refugees

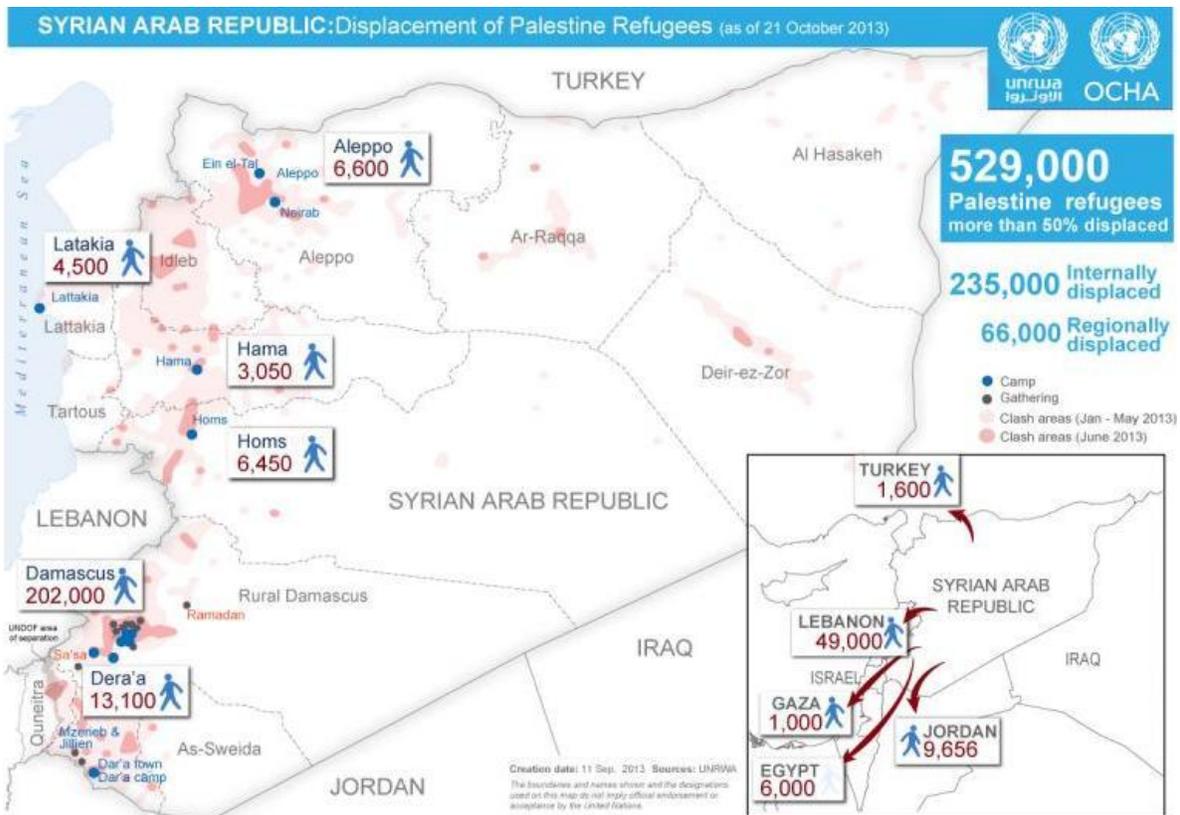
The UNRWA has mentioned as of 1/11/2013 that out of 529.000 Palestinian refugees registered in Syria, 511,000 need help; which means 90% of the Palestinian refugees. Around 37 school of the UNRWA's out of 118 schools receive 40,000 students representing 55% of the major number of students. A number of 8 employees of the UNRWA were killed, in addition to the destruction of 44 thousand houses of refugees. Out of 529,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria, 6600 refugees from Aleppo, 4500 from Latakia, 3050 from Hama, 6450 from Homs, 202.000 from Damascus and 13000 from Daraa; were displaced from the country.

Outside Syria, refugees are scattered as of 49,000 to Lebanon, 9.656 to Jordan, 6000 to Egypt, 1000 to Gaza and 1600 to Turkey. The situation in Lebanon has worsened now at the camps which already suffer from social and economic problems.

A field survey conducted by the American University in Beirut, commissioned by UNRWA and funded by European Union in 2011 concluded that 95% of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are without health insurance, and 66.4 % are poor who are unable to cover the minimum needs of

food and essential needs, compared to 35% of the Lebanese people. The unemployment rate reached 56%. Meanwhile, popular committees in the camps estimate to a higher rate of unemployment up to 60%.

To prepare this paper there is no accurate or final statistics on the numbers of the Palestinian refugees who have arrived to European countries, or those who drowned on their way to European countries, whether through Egypt or Libya. The Commissioner General of UNRWA, Grandi, expressed his concern about reports of Palestinian refugees drowning in their way to European countries. He said, *"These horrific developments require the importance of putting an end to hostilities in order to avoid the tragic loss of life, and I reiterate that there is a need to address the special vulnerability of the Palestinian refugees in Syria from the current conflict"*. He added, *"this highly complicated crisis has a Palestinian dimension that should be treated."* On the other hand, the Action Group for Palestinians in Syria which is based in London documented and published the names of 1722 Palestinians victims of men, women, children and elderly.



Services

UNRWA share some of its responsibilities with West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan and Syria in supporting displaced refugees. This makes it easy for UNRWA to provide refugees with their needs. There is no discrimination against Palestinian refugees when they join public schools and hospitals as these host places provide shared duties and services, except in Lebanon. Even UNRWA is not able to expand its housing facilities to host more Palestinian refugees who fled

Syria to the country. This has caused problems in terms of finding places for new refugees which pushed the agency to renovate some old 13 buildings to host some 132 refugee families. Also, the schools of UNRWA now operate in 2 shifts method to accommodate the great numbers.

UNRWA and UNHCR

UNRWA is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly and its mandate is renewed every three years. It is the largest agency of the United Nations. It is a relief and human development agency, originally intended to provide jobs on public works projects and direct relief for Palestinian refugees in 5 locations, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza Strip. So Palestinian refugees within these areas should be supported by UNRWA. However, out of these 5 locations the mandate of aid services should be carried out by UNHCR. However, this is not the case. UNHCR in many places refuse to deal or register Palestinian refugees although it should. For example, those who fled Syria to Egypt are not treated like Syrians who receive the support of UNHCR. There is no even aid support by UNRWA as it doesn't operate there. So in Egypt Palestinian refugees were left with no source of income or support which pushed many of them to leave to Europe and sadly many of them died while on sea. There is lack of coordination between UNRWA and the UNHCR which really doesn't reflect a managerial attitude from international organizations affiliated and operated by the UN.

UNRWA and Donor Countries

According to UNRWA, 2014, "almost all funding comes from voluntary contributions, and mostly from donor states. The United Nations Secretariat finances over 100 international staff posts each year from its regular budget. UNESCO and WHO also fund on average 10 posts in the education and health programmes. The United States was the largest single donor in 2013, with a total contribution of over US\$ 130 million, followed by the European Union (over US\$ 106 million). These contributions made up about 45 per cent of the total income UNRWA received for its core programme budget. The Agency is currently underfunded. At the beginning of 2014 the Agency's cash deficit stood at US\$ 65 million. Funding is generally not keeping pace with increased refugee needs and uptake of services. This has led to a worrying erosion in the quality of services."

UNRW states that, its budget is divided among the human development goals it strives to achieve. Out of a US\$ 675 million core programme budget in 2013, roughly half was earmarked for "acquired knowledge and skills", with US\$ 118 million for "long and healthy lives" and US\$ 86 million for "a decent standard of living".

At the moment UNRWA continues to have budget deficit and lack of funds due to no-commitment of some donors. This has affected its operations and the amount and scale of services given to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA's Importance and Criticism

There is almost a Palestinian consensus on the need to hold to UNRWA due to its humanitarian and political dimension of the cause of the Palestinian refugees. This extend to the need to protecting and preserving it, due to its importance for the rights of the Palestinian refugees. This appeared clearly through a scientific poll conducted by both the Palestinian Return Centre in London and the Palestinian Return Gathering "Wajib" in Damascus, and the Thabet organisations for the right of return in Beirut on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of "UNRWA". The poll noted that 92% of the refugees support the continuation of UNRWA in providing services, and 69.7 % of the refugees are dissatisfied with the performance.

Conclusions and recommendations on the level of UNRWA and its performance

Due to the on-going crisis in Syria and the absence of any solution in the foreseeable future, which will inevitably increase the suffering of the Palestinian refugees not only in Syria but also in the host countries and the Diaspora, on both levels: humanitarian and political. Therefore, we believe that if donor countries meet their obligations by funding UNRWA; this will ease the suffering of Palestinian refugees. This will improve its services and the level of food, medicine, hospitalization, clothing, accommodation, protection, fighting poverty, the provision of appropriate education and employment opportunities offered to Palestinian refugees.

This needs a real determination especially from Arab countries that do not want to be the sole supporter of UNRWA. Yet, this means they should support the agency.

Therefore, we recommend the following:

- ✚ UNRWA's role in helping Palestinian refugees is key, due to its relation with the right of return and the question of refugees.
- ✚ Arabic and Muslim states should abide by the outcomes of New York meeting in regard of supporting Palestinian refugees from Syria.
- ✚ UNRWA should have an active role with all parties in Syria to avoid the camps violence.
- ✚ There is a need to develop UNEWA role at the conflict zone to protect Palestinian refugees that could guarantee the neutrality for the camps.
- ✚ Solidifying Arab and Muslim states efforts to face any attempts to end the mandate of UNRWA.
- ✚ Managing the expenditures of UNRWA in professional manner to avoid any unneeded expenses.
- ✚ UNRWA should have emergency plans done previously in corporation with local NGOs.
- ✚ Finding more efficient ways to help those in need.
- ✚ Creating more effective coordination between UNRWA and local NGOs and popular committees in the camps.

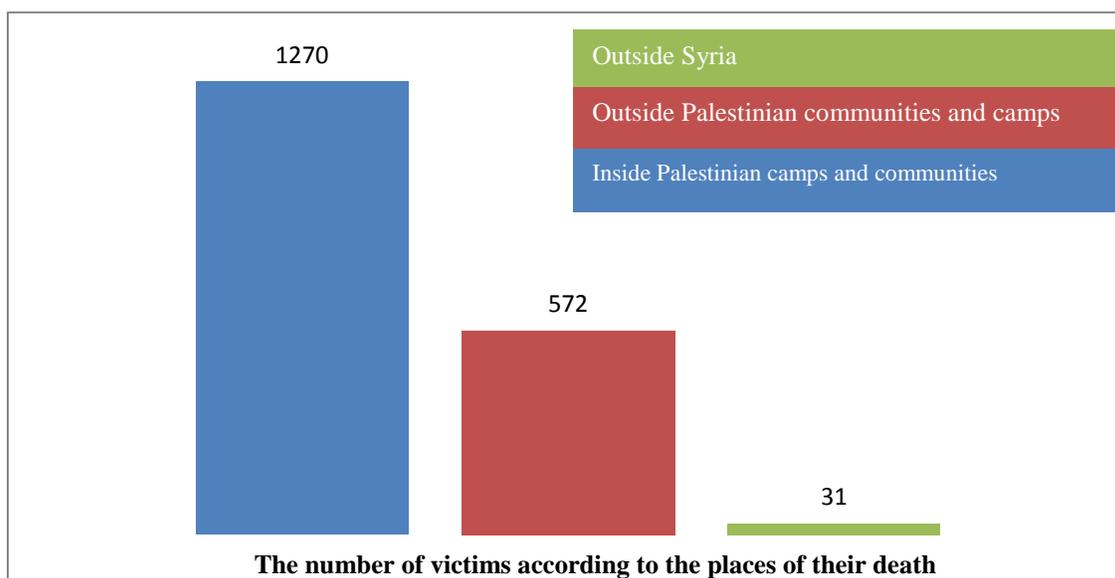
- ✚ UNRWA should play a key role in pressuring Jordan and Lebanon to allow Palestinian refugees in.
- ✚ UNRWA, UNHCR and the EU should coordinate together in regard of Palestinian refugees arriving to Europe.

Part 5: Victims, prisoners and the wounded in Syria.

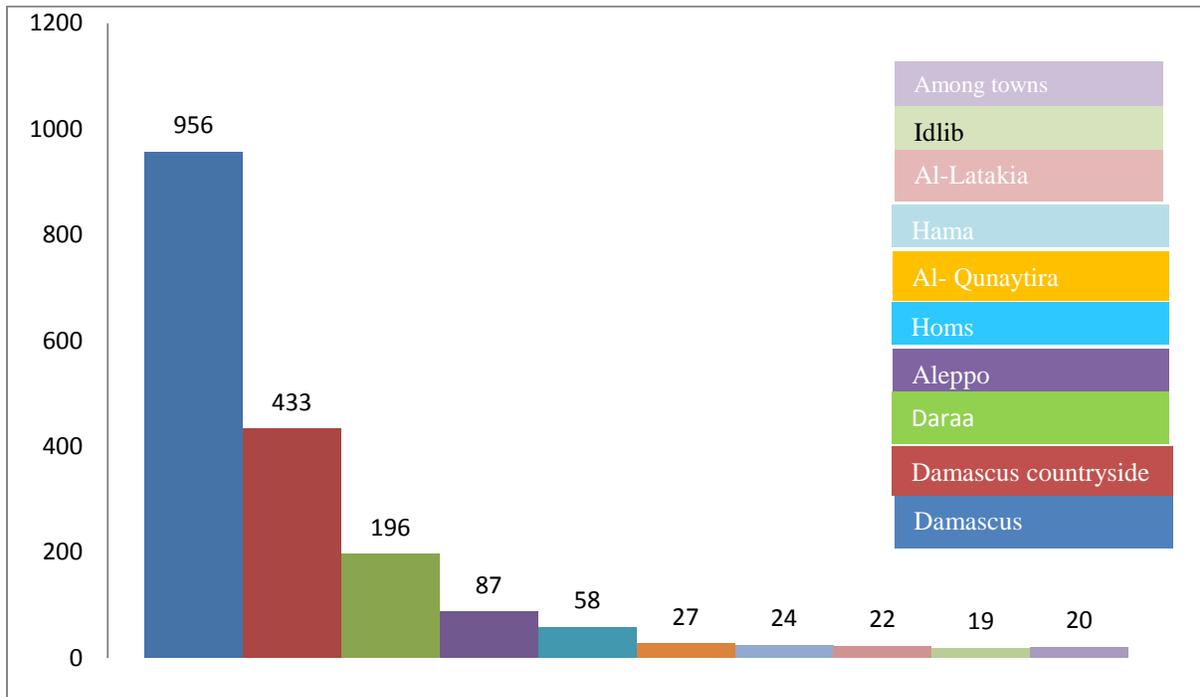
The estimated number of Palestinian refugee casualties in Syria since the beginning of the Syrian crisis to the end of December 2013, according to Statistics documented Action Group for Palestinians in Syria is 1873 victims. Around 1636 of them are males while 237 are females.

Around 1270 from the total numbers died direct killing in the camps and other gathering in the country. The camps which witnessed the death of those victims are Al Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, Daraa camp, Al-Husseiniyeh camp in Damascus Suburbs, Khan Al-sheikh in Damascus Suburbs, Sayeda Zeinab camp in Damascus, Neirab camp in Aleppo, Handarat camp in Aleppo, Alaadeen Camp in Hama, Alaadeen camp in Homs, Jaramana camp in Damascus, Al-raml camp in Latakia, Khan Dannoun camp in Damascus , and communities: Alveabih rally in Damascus, Al-Muzeireeb community in Daraa and, Rukn al-Din community in Damascus.

About 572 Palestinian refugees died in different parts of Syrian cities outside the camps and Palestinian communities previously mentioned. It should be noted that a large proportion of victims who were killed outside the Syrian camps and communities were killed during their work, or they are students or recruits to perform military service, in addition to the death of 31 Palestinian Syrian while trying to reach European shores.



Distribution of Victims according to Syrian cities until the end of December 2013



The distribution of Palestinian martyrs according to the Syrian cities

Distribution of victims according to Palestinian camps and communities in Syria

Palestinian Victims outside the camps and the Palestinian concentration areas in Syria.

Palestinians refugees from Syria who reside outside the Palestinians camps and communities have been also targeted, by constant bombing of their areas and camps resulting in the death of 572 Palestinians, the majority of whom are in Damascus neighborhoods and its countryside. The largest number of victims was in Al-Hajaar Al- Aswaad areas, Doma, Zamlka, Jadeedt Artouz, Artouz Al- Balad, Al- Kaboun, Yalda, Jobar, Kudsia, Dommor, Beit Sahn, Al-Mezze, Cotna, Al-Maydaan, A-Zahera, Daryaa and Sehnaya. Also, a victims were killed in the neighborhoods of Idleb, Hama, Homs and the countryside of Daraa and Latakia

Victims in the Diaspora

The number of the Palestinians who died in the Diaspora are 31 person, they died in the countries of like Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt and Libya, as they tried to reach Europe. According to the countries the Palestinian victims were 15 in Egypt, 6 in Greece , 6 in Malta, 2 In Italy, 2 in Libya and one in Turkey.

It was reported On 17 September, that a Egyptian Coast Guard opened the fire on a boat carrying Palestinians-Syrians refugees when they on their way to the European beaches, this caused the death of 2 people, Amer Dalool and Fadwa Taha, and the arrest of all of the passengers of the boat who were then sent to an Egyptian prison. At the start of October 2013, there were two boats carrying Palestinians- Syrians refugees that sank in the Italian and Maltese territorial water resulting in the death of the hundreds.

The following table includes the distribution of the Palestinians victims according to the Palestinian camps and communities in Syria.

The name of the camp/communities	The number of victims
Yarmouk camp	719
Daraa camp	151
Al- Husseiniyeh camp	95
Khan Eshieh camp	58
A-Sabina camp	58
Sayeda Zeinab camp	39
A- Neirab camp	36
Handarat camp	29
Al-Aadeen camp in Homs	27
Al-Aadeen camp in Hama	16
Jaramana camp	13
A-Raml camp-Al- Lathikia	9
Al-thiabya community in Damascus countryside	6
Khan Dannun camp	7
Al-Muzaireb community in Daraa	4
Rukn al-Din community in Damascus	3
The total number of victims	1270

The reasons beyond the Death

The following table shows casualty statistics according causes that led to the ascension

Reasons of Death	Number
Bombing	753
Clashes	441
Sharpshooter	222
Torturing	129
Unknown(they were documented before knowing the reason beyond the death	79
Field Execution	63
Other reasons- Massacre, health crises, killing, assassination	48
Chemical weapon	33
Explosion	33
The Israeli Occupation dumdum	27
Sinking	26
The death out of hunger due to the siege	19
the total number of the victims	1873

Finally, the number of Palestinian victims in Syria is still at rising, due to of the military actions of bombing and clashes between the two sides of conflict. And what makes the matter more worse that there are many Palestinian refugee camps in the conflict zone such as Daraa south Syria, Yarmouk south of Damascus, A-Neirab in Aleppo, and Al-Husseiniyeh camp and Khan Eshieh in Damascus' countryside. This requires an effort from the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian embassy in Damascus, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian organizations to prevent more bloodshed in the camps. The condition of the Palestinian Liberation Army should be noted, as the families of the recruits are still calling for preventing them from the horrors of the Syrian conflict and calling upon the leaders of the Liberation Army not to involve them in the midst of this conflict. Since the start of the crisis until November 15, 2013 about sixty of the military's Liberation Army people have been killed.

The suffering of the wounded people: Lack of Health Care and Siege

The crisis in Syria left the Palestinian camps, especially the health and clinics canters vulnerable, many of the health facilities were destroyed. The siege and checkpoints around the camps hinders the health services required. The conditions of Palestinian refugees who are wounded has been always worsening due to lack of health care and medications. Many people were killed while attempting to leave the camps for medications. Moaweya Ashunaar from Yarmouk camp, when was shot by the sniper on January 1, 2013 and he died to due to the lack of the medical supplies and the oxygen. A child died on June 16, 2013, due to the draught in al Yarmouk

camp. He was not able to go to the hospital because of the blockade. Moreover, on 17/02/2013, Osama Faraj died due to the lack of the medical care, the old woman, named Azeeza Mohammed Naemee died as a result of the drought as well. Mahmud Ahmed Aladdin died on 10/26/2013. And on 11/02/2013, the child Abdul Hai Yusuf passed away as a result of the drought also Omar Hussein died for the same reason on 11/10/2013.

Part 6: Palestinian prisoners in the Syrian prisons

According to numbers of the Action Group for Palestinians in Syria, the number of Palestinian captives in Syrian prisons has reached from 2011 till 13 - Dec – 2013, 355, in addition to (256) missing people, and (54) were abducted. Despite the fact that the Palestinian refugee in Syria were concerned about being involved in the Syrian crisis, they suffered alike the Syrians and faced arrests and abductions, and has been subjected to the physical and psychological torture in all its types.

The documented information up to the 31 December, 2013 shows that 127 civilian Palestinians died in the Syrian prisons due to the torture or direct murdering. There were a number of direct arrests at the checkpoints or during the raids carried out by the army in the Syrian villages and cities. Or through the random arrest campaigns of certain area. And after the arrest, it is become impossible for any party to know the destiny of the arrested person. But in several cases, the security people later, call the family of the prisoner to receive his corpse from the military or the governmental hospitals, as what happened to Fahd Mahmud Khalil, whose family took his corpse on 23/05/2012, and Khamis Al- Hariri, who died in Al-Raml camp where his family was informed of the place of his grave on 25/08/2011. When the bodies of the dead people had been delivered, it was clearly shown signs of brutal torture against them while in the prisons.

Also, there were some cases of kidnapping for the wounded people from hospitals and health centers like Palestine Hospital in Yarmouk camp which was subjected to constant raids resulting in the arrest of number of the wounded although they were in critical health status.

In addition to that, the corpse of Marwan Awad , who is from Khan Al- Shiekh camp, was found dead on 03/11/2012, after being arrested by one the FSA groups for two days in one of the government hospital s in Damascus , and the effects of using a sharp object on the head were shown.

Part 7: Death's Boats and the Asylum to Europe

So many Palestinian refugees fled Syria to other safer places like Egypt and Libya. These places were also regarded as transit for many of the refugees who aimed at reaching Europe for a better life. The refugees tried to cross to Europe by the Mediterranean Sea but many of them failed and drowned to death including children, women and elderly. Many ships drowned off the shores of Malta and Italy.

Part 8: Results and General Recommendations

- 1- Palestinian camps should be neutralized and avoided from the current conflict in Syria. The camps should be safe and must be opened to allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and towns. The Palestinian existence in Syria should be respected as enacted by International law.
- 2- Medical aid as well as basic food and milk should be allowed for all people including children, women and the wounded.
- 3- Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) and other Palestinian NGOs should extend the help for Palestinian refugees in all diaspora countries by activating the roles of Palestinian embassies and consulates.
- 4- We call on all Arab countries to lift restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of Palestinian refugees in addition to end all arbitrary measures against them.
- 5- UNRWA should carry out its duties in regard of helping Palestinian refugees as it's the first and direct responsible.
- 6- International community has to meet its obligations by providing the required protection and improve the conditions of Palestinian refugees in host countries. This includes securing the rights of free health, education and all other related services alike their Syrian counterparts.
- 7- UNHCR should play more vital role especially outside where the UNRWA is not operating. The UN bodies should all work together thus they can protect Palestinian refugees.
- 8- Arab League should take practical steps to help protecting Palestinian refugees.
- 9- Forming a body that follow up the conditions of Palestinian refugees that's supported by all means and needs.