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Fate of palestinian refugee camps in syria after the so called arab spring

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Abstract The aim of this paper is to trace back the history of the Palestinian refugees' camps in Syria from 1948 until today. It also aims to investigate the fate of such camps amidst of the so-called Arab Spring. Despite their hardship as diaspora, Palestinian refugees in Syria worked hard to manage their lives, with help from Syrian Government and United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA). Since 2011, Researchers found that Palestinian refugee camps witnessed various military actions from both the Syrian Army and oppositions groups. These actions resulted in the killing, imprisonment, and dispersal of most Palestinian refugees. In addition, their dispersal took place either inside Syria to neighboring countries or other parts of the World. Researchers believe that Palestinian refugees should peacefully return to their camps in Syria and one day they will exercise the return to their homeland in Palestine according to United Nations resolutions. Finally, United Nations has failed to implement durable solutions for Palestinian refugees, resulting in chronic suffering and displacement in various forms.

Keywords Palestinian refugee camps · Syria · Dispersal · Arab Spring

Introduction

Syria was one of the first Arab Countries, which had been hit hard by the so-called Arab Spring that started since 2011. The crisis was caused by internal and outside factors. Syrians went to the streets demanding governmental reforms. Soon after, such demands were laid away and were faced by violence, which took place between Syrian Arab Army and opposition groups in different parts of Syria. From the onset of the crisis in Syria, Palestinian refugee camps were targeted despite the fact that Palestinian authorities either in Palestine or in Syria declared that they were neutral and did not want to interfere in political issues of Syria as a hosting state to Palestinian Refugees since the Nakba of 1948.

It is known that around 900,000 Palestinian refugees were forced to leave their homes by the hands of Zionist terrorist groups in 1948 and 1949. Right after the “Nakba”, refugee camps were established to accommodate Palestinian refugees in neighboring countries, mainly in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip (the part that remained from Palestine). Those formerly residing in the northern part of Palestine mostly fled to Lebanon and Syria while some moved to Jordan and towards the northern part of the West Bank and a small number to Iraq. Palestinians originating from the central part of Palestine fled to the West Bank and

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Jordan and those from the southern part fled to Gaza and Egypt.

Figure 1 shows that the refugees' distribution in neighboring countries hinged on various factors, but mainly the shortest distance and safest area closest to their homes. For they believed that the conflict and their exile would be a short period, allowing them to

eventually return to their homes. However, they also relied on social family networks and financial capabilities; therefore, a fraction of the refugees went further to Iraq and Egypt.

Later, Palestinians refugees gathered in plots closer to main cities, especially for health and food needs. The location of these camps was mostly determined by



Fig. 1 Routes of Palestinian Refugees in 1948 Created by Kittaneh, 2020; based on a map PalestinianRemembered.com

refugees themselves both on private as well as state or public land that eventually turned into refugee camps with the aid of the UNRWA, which was especially established to support Palestinian refugees. UNRWA had started to provide refugees with food, shelter, clothing and basic health services in 58 locations that were recognized as official Palestinian refugee camps: 27 camps are located in the West Bank and Gaza, 12 in Lebanon, 10 in Jordan and 9 in Syria.

Table 1 illustrates the number of Palestinian refugees in Arab countries in the period between 1950 and 2017. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the Palestinian refugee camps in the Arab countries and the Palestinian territories. The numbers show that Jordan received 40% of Palestinian refugees, 21.7% in Gaza Strip, 14.7% in the West Bank, 14% in Lebanon, and 8.9% in Syria. When Jordan annexed the West Bank in 1950, its share of Palestinian refugees jumped to almost 55% of the refugees. In most of the areas, the Palestinian camps were designed as open camps and the refugees were not given a different legal status than other citizens. However, in Lebanon, the refugees were given a different legal status than Lebanese and the camps were designed as ‘closed camps’. Therefore, the percentage of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon shrunk from 14 to 9% in 2017. Therefore, Palestinian refugees’ increment between 1950 and 2017 was about 6 times in average, despite the hardship refugees faced. However, the lowest increment was in Lebanon, which was 4 times.

Syria hosted only 9% of Palestinian refugees in open camps and they were able to move freely within the country. They were treated as Syrians, but they were not allowed to vote or to hold ministerial offices (Brand, 1998; Monthly Rights Group International,

2018). Syria also hosted 62,000 more Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the 1967 war, increasing the percentage to 10.5% in 2017 (Al-Sahli, 2020a, b).

Within two years after the Nakba, twelve Palestinian refugee camps were distributed all over Syria (see Fig. 3). The UNRWA recognized only nine: Khan Al-Shaikh (near Damascus); Al-Nairab (near Aleppo); Hamat, and Khan Danon (near Damascus); Dira; Emergency camp (near Dira); Jirmana (Damascus); Sit Zainab (Damascus); and Esbenah (near Damascus). The unrecognized camps by UNRWA are Yarmuk (in Damascus) and Al-Raml (near Latakia) and Ein El-Tal or Handarat (near Aleppo).

In 2017, Palestinian refugees in Syria were about 570,000 (10.5% of the Palestinian refugees). However, the number of registered Palestinian refugees in UNRWA is about 320,400. As a result of the conflict and violence in Syria, which erupted after the Arab Spring in 2011, Palestinians faced a new disaster “Nakba”. They faced difficult circumstances by emigrating from Syria to Arab countries or to other parts of the World; or they were displaced inside Syria. There are 450,000 refugees who currently need emergency assistance since they are internally displaced in Syria (see Table 2). In 2015, within the Syrian land there were 233,700 Palestinian refugees dispersed in different districts: Damascus (200,000), Dera (13,100), Aleppo (6600), Hums (6450), Latakya (4500) and Hamat (3050). Most of them are originated from the camps of Yarmuk, Ein El-tel and Dera. About 43,000 refugees are under siege in areas of conflict in Syria (Akel, 2017).

A total of 120,000 refugees left Syria as a result of this country’s internal conflict. Out of this number

Table 1 Number of Palestinian Refugees in Arab countries in 1950 and 2017 Source Al-Hroub, 2014; Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, 2020

Hosting Arab country	Number of refugees in 1950	%	Number of refugees in 2017	%	Number of Increments from 1950 to 2017
West Bank	134,000	14.7	997,173	17	7
Gaza Strip	198,000	21.7	1,435,616	24.5	7
Jordan	372,000	40.7	2,286,643	39	6
Syria	82,000	8.9	618,128	10.5	7
Lebanon	128,000	14	513,795	9	4
Total	914,000	100	5,851,355	100	6

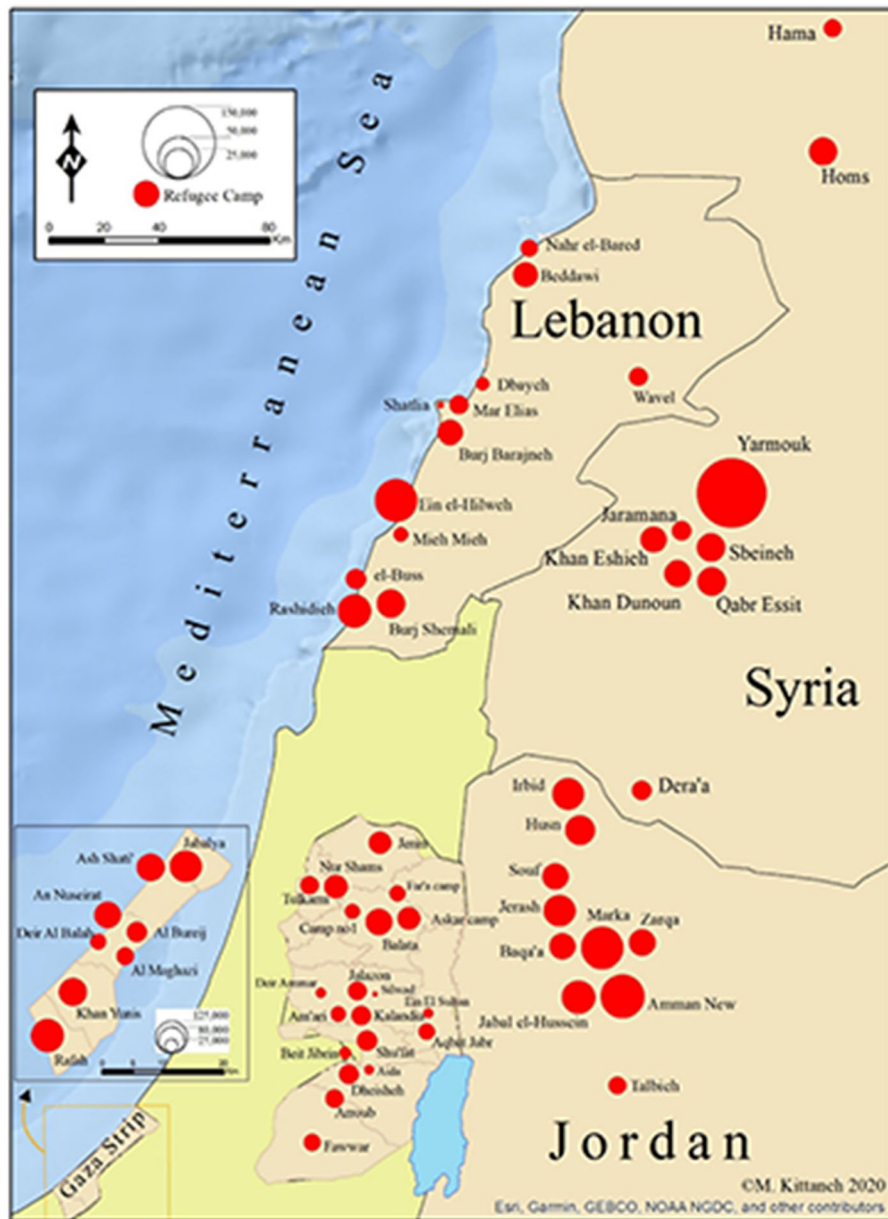


Fig. 2 Palestinian refugee Camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria Created by Kittaneh, 2020; based on UNRWA published data, 2019

31,000 left to Jordan, 16,000 to Lebanon, 6000 to Egypt, 8000 to Turkey, and 1000 left to Gaza Strip. The rest—about 58,000—left to Europe (UNRWA, 2017; AL-Quds.net, 2017). However, the Welfare Association (2017) states that the total number of Palestinians who fled to Lebanon between 2015 and 2017 was about 53,000. Therefore, Al-Sahli (2020a, b) reports that more than 170,000 Palestinian refugees

left Syria. The statistics show that number of the Palestinian refugees who left Syria increased from 104,000 in 2015 (AL-Zaytuna Center for Research and Consultation, 2015) to 120,000 in 2017 (UNRWA, 2017) and to 170,000 in 2020 (Al-Sahli, 2020a, b). Some Arab countries forced Palestinian exiles back to Syria (Akel, 2017; Strohlic, 2015).

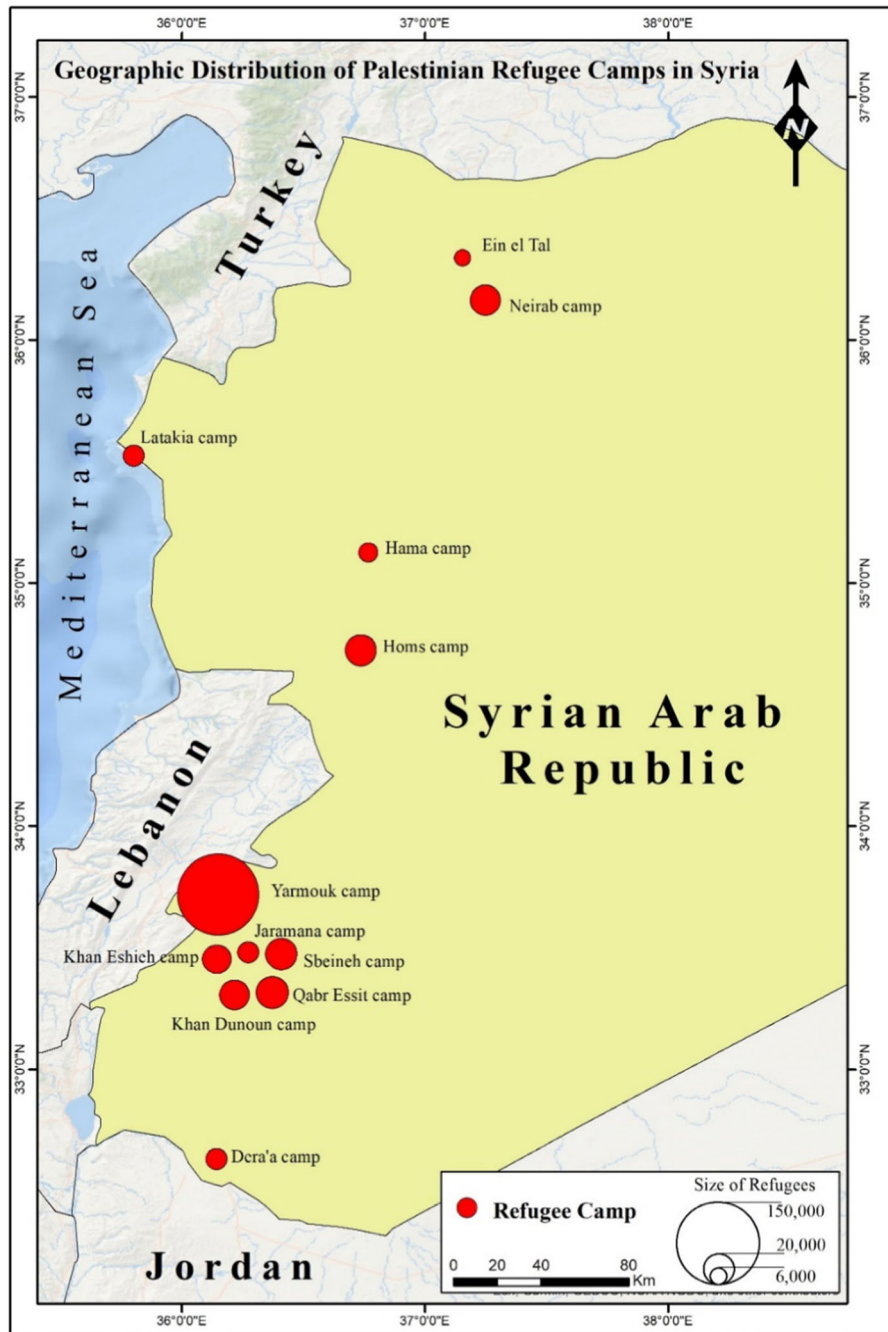


Fig. 3 Geographic distribution of Palestinian refugee camps in Syria Created by: Kittaneh, 2020

Thousands of Palestinian refugees in Syria arrived to European Countries, but they received different treatments than those who influx to Arab countries as they were considered statelessness, since many of them do not hold legal documents that prove they are Palestinian refugees living in Syria (Irfan, 2017).

Palestinian refugees were mainly hosted by specific European countries such as Scandinavians, Holland, Denmark, and Germany. Those who left to Europe, used ports of Egypt, Libya and Turkey. Many Palestinians drowned in the Mediterranean See throughout their scape trips. For example, in

Table 2 Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria UNRWA, 2019 Source

Camp	Date of establishment	Population before 2011	Population in 2019 and Camps conditions since 2011
Dera	1948	10,500	Mostly destroyed but in 2018 400 Palestinian refugee families were able to return to their homes
Hamat	1950	8000	9000 hosted Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave other camps
Jermana	1948	18,000	45,000 hosted thousands of Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave Yarmuk camp
Khan Al-Shaikh	1949	20,000	9000 Many parts of the camp were destroyed Thousands of its refugees were dispersed throughout Syrian land or were able to refuge abroad
Sit Zeinab	1948	24,000	15,000 9000 refugees left the camp toward other parts of Syria or abroad
Latakya	1956	10,000	14,000 (2019) Lost 2000 of its population and were replaced Palestinian refugees from Damascus & Aleppo
Ein El-Tal (Handarat)	1962	8000 (2019)	Completely Destroyed but 90 families returned in 2018
Emergency Dera	1967	13,000	
Hums	1949	22,000	15,000 hosted 2000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees who used to live in its neighborhood
Khan Danun	1950	10,000	125,00 during Syrian conflict this camp hosted many Palestinian refugees who were living in the neighborhoods of Damascus
Nairab	1948	20,000	Hosted 900 families who were forced to leave Ein El-Tal Refugee camp
Sbenah	1948	22,600	13,000 Mostly destroyed and thousands of its refugees were dispersed in Syrian or departed to other countries
Yarmuk	1957	160,000	Mostly destroyed, but still inhabited by few hundreds of old age Palestinian refugees

September 6 of 2014, a boat carrying 400 Palestinian refugees drowned in Mediterranean, 11 of whom were saved (AL-Zaytuna Center for Research and Consultation, 2015).

In 1950, Lebanon hosted 128,000 Palestinian refugees and received more than 500,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria between the years 2011 and 2017. Furthermore, after Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Palestinian Liberation Organization authorities, troops and their families were also forced to flee to Arab countries such as Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Algeria and Sudan. Just after their departure, massacres of the two Palestinian refugee camps inside Lebanon, Sabra and Shatela, took place by Lebanese right-wing militia with support from the Israeli army. Around 3,000 Palestinian refugees were brutally killed. These two massacres also played a major role in the dispersal of Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon. Due to conflict in Syria since 2011, UNRWA (2020) estimates that about 31,000 Palestinian refugees living in Syria were

forced to leave to Lebanon. The discriminatory treatment of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in terms of education and employment plays a considerable factor in pushing them to leave Lebanon (Fritzsche, 2014).

UNRWA (2020) and UNHCR. (2017) report different estimates of Palestinian refugees living in Syria and Jordan by ten thousands, due to the lack of the information about who stay in Syria and who fled. Those who fled to Jordan live in hard conditions and very few of them returned to Syria. Jordan initiated restrictive policies toward Palestinian refugees from Syria, taking into consideration the fear of being taken as the “alternative land” for Palestinians and this is the Jordanian authorities of such policies. Hasan (2014) reports that “Israel is responsible for the suffering of Palestinian refugees by denying them their right of return to their villages and towns”. In 2012 Jordan adopted a no-entry policy to such refugees (Santos, 2014), fearing that may affect its security (Hasan,

2014; Malik, 2014). This has led to the increase of displaced Palestinians inside Syria. Many of them live in the suburbs of Syrian urban centers and their rural areas such as in Yarmouk camp, Damascus (see Fig. 4).

However, Palestinian refugees live in every district in Syria, and hosting Syrians sympathized with them (Fanack, 2020). Table 3 illustrates the Palestinian refugees' concentrations:

As soon as Palestinian refugees arrived to Syria after they were forcibly displaced in 1948, they enjoyed same rights as Syrian citizens with the exception of citizenship or being able to elect representatives and running for Syrian Parliament (Akel, 2017; Badil Staff, 2014). In 1949, the Syrian government established the Bureau of Palestinian Arab Refugees. Later on, it was known as the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees. The main purpose of this authority was to organize relief and

secure the needs for Palestinian refugees (Badil Staff, 2014). (Fig. 5).

Palestine and Syria enjoy geographic proximity; therefore, residents of both countries have historical and social ties, similar culture, and intermarries. Approximately 83% of current Palestinian refugees in Syria are originated from northern Palestine (districts of Safad and Tiberias). Since 1948 and up to 1953 of Palestinian expulsion, tribal nomads of northern Palestine preferred to live in the Syrian Golan heights because it contained pastures (Akel, 2017). In fact, Golan Heights was suitable for Palestinian nomads' way of life, especially livestock herding. Palestinian refugees of urban life style such as Safadis lived in Damascus and practiced their professions in industry and craftsmanship. (Fig. 6).

However, those who originated from Haifa, whose lifestyles were based on fishing, preferred to live in the Syrian coastal city of Latakia. Palestinian refugees

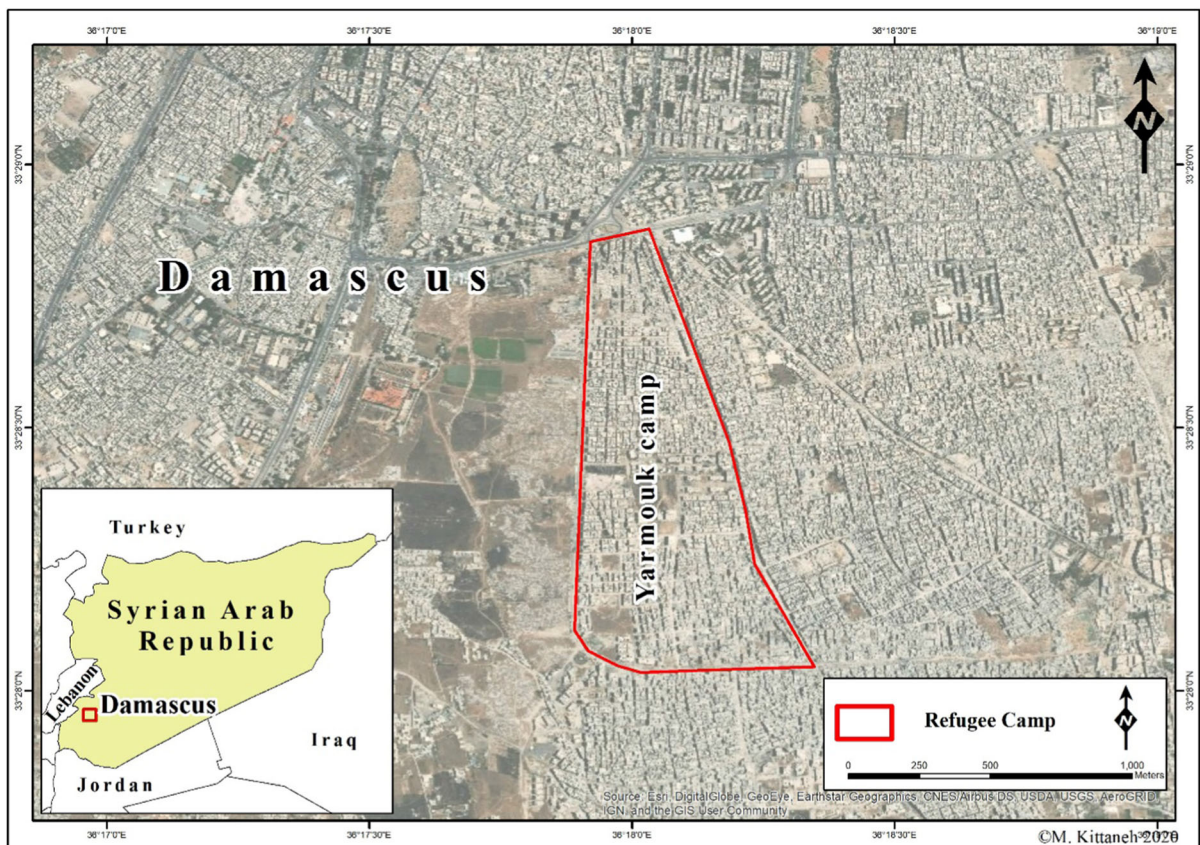


Fig. 4 Location of Palestinian Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, Syria Created by Kittaneh, 2020. *Source:* UNRWA 2014b. A website, visited day August 24, 2020

Table 3 Palestinian Refugees Concentrations and their Locations

Name of concentration	Location of concentration	Name of concentration	Location of concentration
Barzah	Damascus Suburb	Harasta	Damascus Rural Area
Mazah	Damascus Suburb	Doma	Damascus Rural Area
Hajar Aswad	Damascus Suburb	Irbeen	Damascus Rural Area
Ruk Al-Deen	Damascus Suburb	Sasa	Damascus Rural Area
Dummar	Damascus Suburb	Alqunaitera	Alqunaitera
Kufr Susah	Damascus Suburb	Muzaireeb	Dera
Husayneyah	Damascus Suburb	Old Section of Dera Dera	Dera
Theaybeyah	Damascus Suburb	Homes	Homes
Ghota	Damascus Rural Area	Banyas	Latakya
Jobar	Damascus Rural Area		

**Fig. 5** Destroyed buildings at the entrance of Yarmouk Refugee Camp UNRWA, 2014a *Source: Palestine Chronicle (2018)*

who lived in Aleppo and Hums first moved from Palestine to Lebanon and later were transferred by force to Syria. They were forced to leave Lebanon because of Lebanese fear of demographic factors and Syrian successive military governments welcomed them in order to get their support against oppositions. Palestinian refugees living in Syria may be classified into five groups: First group, Palestinians who were

forced to leave their homeland in 1948 represents 85% of total refugees. This group enjoys same rights and duties as Syrian citizens with the exception of running for elections. Second group consists of Palestinians of Al-Baqara and Al-Ghanama who were expelled from Palestine by Israelis in 1956 and were estimated to be around 2000. They have the rights to get short term contracts and they are exempted from military



Fig. 6 Destruction at the Yarmouk refugee camp Palestine Chronicle, 2018 Source

services. Third group is made of Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave Al-Qunaitera—Syrian city located in Golan Heights—after it was occupied by Israel in 1967. An emergency camp was established to accommodate them in the city of Dera, a southern Syrian city. In addition, this camp accommodated some Palestinians “Nazhun” arrived from West Bank and Gaza Strip to Syria after 1967 war. They were considered as foreigners living in Syria. Fourth group consists of Palestinians who arrived to Syria after September of 1970 in which Palestinian fighters clashed with the Jordanian Army. Palestinian fighters had to flee to Syria and carried different. They were not offered Syrian travel documentations. Syrian government considered them as foreigners living in Syria. Most of them were not able to renew their travel documents from Egyptian or Jordanian authorities. Until present, they suffer living hardship in Syria and cannot travel abroad. However, UNRWA furnishes educational and basic health services for them. Fifth group is composed of Palestinians who left Iraq after the American occupation of Iraq in 2003. Many of

them poured to Syria in 2006 after security situation deteriorated in Iraq. They were estimated to be about five hundred. In fact, such Palestinians live in Al-Hool camp but suffer from their legal and life conditions (Department of Refugee Affairs, 2007).

Literature Review

This study tries to bridge the gap in the lack of information on Palestinian refugees in Syria as only a small number of studies were conducted, including the one prepared by Al-Sahli (2020b). Researchers of different disciplines have tackled the concept of forced migration at the academic levels (Castles, 2006; Wood, 1994). Gammeltoft-Hansen (2017) reports that in response to increasing numbers of refugees, the world needs new policy forms of more protection-oriented cooperation in order to protect refugees in many regions in the world. At present, Amnesty International (2020) furnishes the top 10 refugee hosting countries which are: Turkey 3.6 million,

Jordan 2.9 million, Colombia 1.7 million, Lebanon 1.4 million, Pakistan 1.4 million, Uganda 1.4, Germany 1.1 million, Sudan 1 million, Iran 979,400, Bangladesh 854,800. However, Bahçekapılı and Cetin (2015) traced back the biggest refugee flows after the Second World War. The United Nations Refugee Agency (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: UNHCR) reports that the total number of worldwide refugees is around 26.3 million and out of this number, tragically, there were 16.3 million refugees originated from Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar. These countries are characterized by lack of security as well as social and economic instability.

At the regional level, based on TurkStats, Bahçekapılı and Cetin (2015) carried out statistics on workforce, prices, internal migration and foreign trade using cross-section differencing method in Southeastern Anatolia Economy in which the Syrian refugee camps are situated. The study found out that internal migration rate increased, foreign trade indicators improved and population growth increased. The influx of Syrian refugees led to rise in unemployment rate above the Turkish average, and unskilled Syrian refugees workers competed with native Turks for their jobs. Mencutek (2019) examined the “patterns of legal, political and institutional responses to large-scale Syrian forced migration. She analyzed the motivations behind neighboring countries’ (Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) policy responses, how their responses change over time and how they have an impact on regional and global cooperation”. Furthermore, Mencutek explored how refugee governance differs across countries and why they diverge. Responses of each country is based on three main factors: internal political interests, economic-development related concerns, and foreign policy objectives, as well as interactions among them. Refugee governance is composed of at least three sub-policy domains: border controls, reception-protection and integration.

By comparing the encampment policies of Jordan and Lebanon, Turner (2015) argues how a specific refugee policy of these countries regarding settlement benefits specific labor market goals of host states. Dearorff (2016) and Chatty (2017) focused on political and humanitarian responses to Syrian Displacement in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. On the other hand, Ruiz and Vargas-Silva (2013) focused on economics of

forced migration. The host countries (Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey) of forced migration of Palestinian refugees have their own of restrict policies, but European countries have no difference engagement options in inclusion such refugees (Norman, 2018; Seeberg, 2013). These refugees mainly moved from country in the south to another one in the south. This pattern is south-south, but their migration toward countries in the north is characterized as a south-north pattern (Nawyn, 2016). Wood in his study of forced migration states that forced migrants “would benefit most perhaps from an immediate international action program that coordinates the resources and talents of U.N. agencies, NGOs, and government agencies involved in refugee programs, migrant transportation and reintegration, economic-development assistance, emergency relief operations, and human-rights’ protection”. Mallet and Hagan-Zanker (2018) states that refugees’ journeys are the product of a profoundly contextual and subjective decision-making process. Refugees’ status may change from being refugees to forced migrants (Adelman, 2001). As a result, influx of Palestinian refugees throughout the 3rd quarter of twentieth century, Jordan and Lebanon specifically became hosting communities in which refugee camps were established. After the year of 2011, camps of these two countries started to host new waves of Palestinian forced refugees who fled Syria in addition to hosting Lebanese and Syrian nationals and this make these camps to have overlapping nature of displacement (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, 2015, 2016). Situations of some Palestinian refugees have been worsening in Lebanon and Syria. For example, the refugees of Nahr-al-Bared yet to return to their camp, while the Yarmuk camp in Syria has become uninhabitable due to its transformation into a battle zone. The new dispersal of Palestinian refugees led to increasing their miseries and this is compounded with deep divisions in national leadership (Farah, 2013). Al-Mawad (1999) reports that Palestinian roads to Syria in 1948 and aftermath were: from Lebanon to Syria, from Lebanon to Golan Heights, on board boats and ships from Palestine directly to Tartous and Latakia, from Tiberia and Hula areas to the Golan Heights, from Haifa coastal area to Syria, from the West Bank and Transjordan and South Lebanon to Syria by train. Al-Sahli (2020a, b) states that 67% of Palestinian refugees in Syria lived in camps within Damascus and its neighborhood, while 33% lived in other places. Al-

Mawed (1999) states that the uniqueness of the Palestinian refugees in Syria is mainly related to the legal status of the refugees without affecting their national citizenship and identity. Hanafi et al. (2012); and Anderson (2016) state that social exclusion of Palestinian refugees was the mechanism that locked them in poverty. Anera (2013) and Oxfam International (2013) report that Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon live in bleak conditions. For example, families of 10 people are crammed in one room, are not allowed to work in Lebanon, 6% of Palestinian refugees ages 15–18 are in school, many suffer from hunger, cold and illness, and must renew expensive visa every 3 months to be eligible for services. The UNHCR (2017) confirmed that Jordanians and Lebanese authorities carried out severe entry restrictions for refugees fleeing Syria. The fragility of Palestinian refugees became deeper in Syria in which they became displaced again. In terms of preferring a certain country for asylum, Tucker (2018) discussed reasons that influence Palestinian refugees in choosing Germany and Sweden as asylum destinations which are joining family members and limited choice in other places. However, economic and educational opportunities or smugglers and agents played only a minor role in influencing the decision making of Palestinian refugees.

In Palestine, Zionists in their attempt to build a state downgraded the indigenous Palestinians who were later forced to leave. In Balfour's declaration of 1917, it clearly expresses the establishment in Palestine as a national home for the Jewish people. Palestinians were considered non-Jewish communities in Palestine (Priscilla, 2017).

Current Situation of Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, Palestinian refugee camps faced new 'Nakba' in which their lives became upside down. Akel (2017) who lived in Syria until end of 2016 reports that most Palestinian refugee camps were sieged either by government forces or by opposition groups. The Palestinian refugees became in the middle of cross fires. Some camps were partially destroyed such as the refugee camps of Yarmouk, Dera, and Handarat (White, 2013). In addition, some camps got involved in Syrian conflict. For example,

Palestinian Islamic Resistance established legions in Yarmouk and near Aleppo camps in order to fight against the Syrian government. Furthermore, some Palestinian resistance groups who had been in support of Syrian government got involved in Syrian conflict, such as Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine—general leadership, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Under the current circumstances in Syria, Palestinians became disabled of defending themselves; their mobility from one place to another is restricted; and some do not have financial resources to pay for high rents, food and medicine while their children are out of schools. In areas which were controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Palestinian school children are educated not by Syrian official curriculum but by ISIS curriculum. Many Palestinians died because of hunger or absence of medications. Others were killed while trying to leave their camps. In addition, many Palestinians were accused of being in support of Syrian government or opposition groups. Very few Palestinian refugees preferred to stay inside their besieged camps believing that their camps are safer than leaving toward other places in Syria or abroad.

Palestinian refugees who left their camps are facing the following circumstances: First, they moved from one place to another inside Syria and suffer difficult conditions. Second, they stayed inside their camps hoping that the security situation in Syria will improve. Third, thousands of Palestinians are facing new Nakba in which they are leaving Syria toward the unknown in neighboring countries or abroad.

In their new displacement, Palestinians faced new circumstances such as the losing of UNRWA support in terms of living resources, health and education. Others lost their businesses in camps or within Syrian urban and rural areas; lost their economic, social and political existence in Syria, and finally families are split in different countries of new diaspora (Akel, 2017; Salameh, 2020).

Conclusion

The current difficult situation in Syria has greatly affected Palestinian refugees and their camps. If this situation is perpetuated Palestinian's fate in Syria will be shattered. Other Palestinian refugees such as those

in Lebanon are indirectly affected by the unstable political arena in the Middle East in general and specifically in Lebanon and Syria. Jordan is also under economic, social and demographic pressure since it received about two million refugees from Syria. The researchers believe that Palestinian refugees of Syria should be settled back there and the final solution is that they should enjoy the right of return to Palestine according to the United Nations resolutions despite the fact that they are denied the return to their home of habitual residence (Erakat, 2014).

Declaration

Conflict of interest This article is submitted the GeoJournal-Springer, titled “Fate of Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria after the so Called Arab Spring” by Hussein Al-Rimmawi and Mohammad Kittaneh. We testify that: (1) This material has not been published in whole or in part elsewhere; (2) The manuscript is not currently being considered for publication in another journal; (3) All information in this article has been obtained and presented in accordance with scientific rules and ethical conduct (4) All interviewed people were informed that this information will be, only used for scientific work and permitted to use their information for only this purpose. (5) And, We have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work

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