

The Syrian refugee crisis and its impact on Palestinians

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Abstract

This article highlights the questions of people who, under certain conditions, were forced to leave their homes in the Middle East and move to other countries. The problems faced by these groups of people are highlighted. It also highlights the work of the UN and other international organizations in order to provide refugees with basic necessities. This article discusses how, along with the political dialogue on the fate of the Palestinian refugees, lined up the work of the UN on providing direct assistance to the Palestinians. The article traces the work of the Conciliation Commission, the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees, and the reasons for the creation of the Near East Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. At the end of the article, some recommendations are given for further studying this problem and resolving the problems that refugees face in a new society.

Key words: Middle East conflicts; political conflicts; political conflictology; Palestinian refugees; Arab-Israeli wars; political history; international organizations; Giving help; work organization; international relationships.

Introduction

In the modern world, the Middle East is one of the centers of contradictions. After the so-called Arab Spring, which began in the winter of 2010 - 2011, a series of revolutions and armed clashes does not stop. As a result, there has been an increase in forced migration in the region, which can become a source of destabilization in any country that provides asylum to displaced people. Special camps are usually created on the territory of the host state, often turning into strongholds for extremist and terrorist forces.

In situations of armed conflict, refugees in camps are unable to avoid violence from the opposing sides. As a result, they often are subject to significant deprivation, as they are in fact the least protected part of the population. However, it should be noted that refugees are becoming their own kind of weapon in the political struggle between rival factions. Thus, Palestinian refugees sometimes create serious problems for the host state. The Arab-Israeli conflict, which began in the late 40s. 20th century in connection with the creation on the territory of Palestine, the Arab and Jewish states, is the longest of of all unresolved conflicts in the world. Therefore, it is the Palestinian refugees who have the most uncertain status, forced to flee to Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and other countries that are ready to provide them with temporary asylum. Most of the refugees since 1948 cannot return to their homeland. After the Arab-Israeli war of 1948-1949. a significant number of Palestinians immigrated to Syria. The unstable situation in Syria began in March 2011, when peaceful protests escalated into armed conflict after

the military opened fire on demonstrators. According to the UN, more than 400 thousand people died during the conflict, more than 10 million were forced to flee their homes. 4.8 million people have taken refuge outside the country.

A considerable part of the refugees and their descendants (at least 30%) still live in refugee camps. It should be especially noted that the Palestinians in Syria were practically not subjected to serious infringements and, although they do not have the citizenship of the country, formally, according to the law of 1957, they enjoy practically the same rights and bear the same duties as the Syrians. For example, men are required to serve in the military. Until recently, refugees received their primary education in UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) schools. They receive secondary school education free of charge in Syrian public schools. They are also eligible to enter universities and receive government scholarships to study abroad, just like other Syrian citizens.

According to the United Nations Agency for Relief for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and Works Organization (UNRWA), in 2003 there were 407,743 Palestine refugees living in Syria, representing about 3% of the country's population and about 10.5% of total number of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. In 2005, their number was 432,000 people. Moreover, according to statistics, about 125,000 refugees not officially registered. Ten special camps have been set up in Syria, which were home to approximately 28% of Palestinian refugees. There are also four unofficial camps organized by the Central Authority for Palestine Refugees. (General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees - GARAP): in Yarmouk, Latakia, Ramadani and Ein al-Tal. In the largest camp, Yarmouk, located near Damascus, there are about 150,000 refugees. According to the UN, as of 2011, there were about 550,000 Palestinians.

The war in Iraq (2003-2011) caused another flow of refugees to Syria, while both Palestinian and Iraqi. As a result, due to the huge number of people wishing to cross the border, the Syrian government was forced to control the influx of Palestinian refugees and deny asylum to many. A significant number of Palestinians had to settle on uninhabitable land on the border of Syria and Iraq.

Results

To be sure, the vast number of Palestinian refugees subjected to violence in Syria, international support is needed. Assistance to Palestinian refugees in Syria is provided by organizations specially authorized by the UN. The largest activity is carried out by UNRWA, whose immediate task is to in protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees. UNRWA not only provides refugee camps water and food, provides the minimum necessary medical care and education, but also organizes various social events and charity evenings, creates motivational videos, publishes statistics on the work done. Such events attract more and more caring people who can improve the living conditions of refugees.

According to the UN, before the start of the conflict, 560,000 refugees from Palestine lived in 12 large camps in Syria. Some of them died as a result of the fighting, others fled from Syria. Thus, the number of Palestinian refugees in Syria was reduced to 450,000. Due to the unstable situation in this country, Palestinian refugees are forced to flee from Syria to Turkey, Jordan or Lebanon. The United Nations Agency for refugees (the UN Refugee Agency - UNHCR). According to the representative of this

organization Ron Redmond, "In the last few days of October 2012 alone, about 550 tons humanitarian aid was delivered to 13,000 affected families".

Discussion

Volunteers also provide significant support. For example, a fairly large group of Syrian volunteers work in the Lebanese camps for Palestinian refugees. According to one of female activists, in June-July 2012, about 1,000 refugees were registered. Basically, volunteers are engaged in registration of newcomers, make lists necessary things and medicines, which are then sent to specialized organizations involved in their delivery. They also collect donations.

Conclusion

The instability and vulnerability of these groups of people who, under certain conditions, and especially because of political violence, were forced to leave their homes, worries many specialists, including both researchers and humanitarian workers. It takes a lot of effort to provide these people with food, shelter, education, medical care. Equally important in providing peace to these people is social integration. It is a fairly common phenomenon that refugees who are provided with housing, medicine, jobs and free education still suffer in the new society. To improve this situation, careful study and much effort for stable social integration is recommended.

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