



HUMAN  
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# NOT WELCOME

Jordan's Treatment of Palestinians Escaping Syria



# **Not Welcome**

Jordan's Treatment of Palestinians Escaping Syria

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## Jordan's Treatment of Palestinians Escaping Syria

Jordan has welcomed over 607,000 refugees seeking safe haven from the bloodshed since fighting began in Syria in 2011, but it has not authorized entry to Palestinians escaping Syria since declaring an official policy of non-admission in early 2013.

*Not Welcome* documents how in addition to disallowing entry, Jordanian officials have arrested and deported back to Syria Palestinians who enter Jordan, returning over 100 since January 2013, including some who actually held Jordanian identification papers. Such deportations violate Jordan's international obligation of nonrefoulement – the international customary law prohibition on the return of refugees and asylum seekers to places where they would face persecution or threat to their lives or safety.

As a result of the Jordanian government's policy, many of the 14,000 Palestinians from Syria in Jordan do not have proper residency papers, rendering them vulnerable to exploitation, arrest, and deportation.

Jordan is not the only country neighboring Syria that has placed entry restrictions on Palestinians from Syria. Other than Turkey, all of Syria's neighbors have placed onerous restrictions on entry for Palestinians attempting to flee generalized violence and unlawful attacks by both government forces and non-state armed groups. All neighboring countries must respect the rights of Palestinian refugees to seek safety and asylum outside Syria as long as they face insecurity and persecution there.



*Refugees at the Cyber City refugee camp near Ramtha, Jordan, July 21, 2012. Jordan has prevented Palestinians from Syria from entering Jordan since 2012, and is holding 190 Palestinians at the closed Cyber City refugee camp, where they have the unenviable choice of remaining in the camp indefinitely or returning to Syria.*

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