

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC DOCUMENT

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### Refugees from Syria in Turkey

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

##### **The human cost of the conflict in Syria since it began in March 2011**

- More than 190,000 people are reported to have died, and some 10.8 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including approximately 6.45 million internally displaced;
- 4 million women, men and children have left the country, fleeing violence, persecution and other intolerable hardships.

##### **Syrians fleeing the conflict**

- Countries bordering Syria – Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt – host 95% of Syria's refugees;
- As of October 2014, Lebanon has 1.13 million registered Syrian refugees;
- Jordan is hosting 619,000 Syrian refugees;
- At least 1.6 million refugees from Syria reside in Turkey, including an estimated 330,000 in Istanbul alone;
- As a percentage of their own populace, Lebanon and Jordan have the largest Syrian refugee populations, whereas Turkey hosting the largest Syrian refugee population outside of Syria.

##### **Refugees from Syria in Turkey**

- Turkey has built some 22 well-resourced refugee camps, accommodating over 220,000 refugees;
- With the camps operating at full capacity, about 85% of Syrian refugees live outside of them;
- In October 2014, the Turkish authorities issued the long-awaited Temporary Protection Directive – legislation that grants Syrian refugees a secure legal status. However, the Directive has yet to be implemented.

##### **Turkey's response and international failure in the face of the world's worst refugee crisis in a generation**

- Of the UN's 2014 regional refugee response appeal for \$3.74 billion, as of 18 November 2014 only 53% had been received;
- Turkey says that it has spent \$4 billion on Syrian refugees – yet of the \$497 million earmarked for Turkey in the UN's 2014 regional refugee response appeal for Syrians, by 5 November 2014 only 28% had been received;
- Germany, by far the most generous country in terms of resettlement commitments, pledged to take 28,500 refugees through humanitarian admission or individual sponsorship programmes;

- The total number of Syrians who have reached, and applied for asylum in, in all 28 member states of the European Union (EU) in the three years up to October 2014 was approximately 140,000, less than the number of people (144,000) who reached Turkey fleeing the IS advance on Kobani (or Ayn al-Arab) in the space of one week in September 2014.

#### **Abuses on Turkey's border with Syria**

- Turkey's southern border with Syria is 900 km long and has been a live conflict zone for much of the period since the crisis began in March 2011;
- Some border crossings have been closed entirely when violence escalates in Syria;
- Although Turkey officially maintains an "open border" policy for refugees from Syria, border crossings are only open to refugees with passports or "urgent medical or humanitarian needs," which forces many people to cross irregularly;
- Virtually all Palestinians from Syria are forced to enter Turkey irregularly as their documents are routinely not accepted by Turkey's border guards;
- Turkish border guards have used unlawful force against Syrian refugees, resulting in deaths, injuries and push-backs into a war zone.

#### **Widespread destitution among Syrian refugees**

- Because the government-run refugee camps are operating at capacity, 85% refugees from Syria are left to fend for themselves;
- Lack of resources forces many Syrian refugees to live in appalling conditions, such as empty shell buildings, or out in the open;
- Syrian refugees are not permitted to work legally. Irregular work makes them vulnerable to exploitation at the hands of employers;
- Syrian refugees' wages are not enough to support an adequate standard of living, with most of them earning less than \$250 per month, which represents 56% of the national minimum wage of \$445 per month;
- The housing needs of Syrian refugees outside the camps are generally unmet, with a large number residing in accommodation that ranges from inadequate to inhumane;
- The vast majority of Syrian children outside the camps do not have any access to education – some children have to work to help support their families, while others do not attend school because there are insufficient places in local institutions;
- Access to free health services – which is theoretically guaranteed to all Syrians who have registered with the Turkish authorities, as an example of best practice – is not fully implemented across the country.

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