



A Call for the Jordanian Government to Allow Access for the Wounded Syrians Trapped at Tal Shehab Crossing Seven Died and 12 others Awaiting the same Fate

The Syrian regime chose to launch a widespread war against the uprising communities in March 2011. Consequently, it was not secret that people started to flee their homes and cities under the bombing that demolished houses and shops and displaced the people. For five years and a half, Jordan has given refuge to no less than 1.25 million Syrian refugees.

In the summer of 2011, Jordan opened its borders fully to receive the flow of Syrian refugees which lasted approximately until the second half of 2012 when the Jordanian government started gradually impeding the flow of refugees and shutting down crossing points. Also, refugees couldn't enter Jordan through airports unless under specific condition. Subsequently, all crossings were shut down almost completely. However, Jordan authorities continued to receive wounded and injured for treatment in light of the utter shortage in medical capabilities and the Syrian regime bombing and targeting most of the hospitals in areas out of its control in order to displace and force people in those areas to flee.

Between 2011 and 2016, the Jordan government's strategies led to a significant drop in refugees' flow according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Despite the drop, number of refugees in Jordan neared one million. Nonetheless, Jordan has acquired only 60% of the obligations that donor states pledged to give Jordan to fund the humanitarian operation in Jordan.

The colleagues at Amnesty International shed light on [12,000 Syrian IDPs trapped](#) at the Jordanian borders on 9 December while satellite images published by our colleagues at Human Rights Watch showed [dense gatherings of Syrians trapped](#) on the Jordan-Syrian borders at Al Rakban crossing.

Although Jordan authorities stopped allowing access to refugees almost completely, it continued to grant access to the wounded and injured via Tal Shehab crossing in western Daraa governorate.





Nonetheless, it should be noted that precisely since the end of June 2016 after ISIS blew a car bomb on the Jordan-Syrian borders in Al Rakban area where seven Jordanian soldiers were killed, the Jordanian authorities shut down Tal Shehab crossing almost completely even though the crossing is used for transferring wounded from Syria. Since then, Jordan hasn't allowed access to any wounded.

With the ceaseless aerial bombardment by the Syrian regime, the number of wounded accumulated at the Jordan borders. In light of the limited medical targeting of medical centers by the Syrian regime in addition to the poor conditions in the desert area where the wounded are, the state of the wounded who are in critical conditions have deteriorated where since the end of June SNHR team, as of this writing, has recorded the death of seven wounded due to the lack of medical attention while the health conditions of tens of others are direly worsening. After contacting a few of the people in the area, we learned that there are 12 wounded at least who will die unless they receive immediate medical attention.

Picture of the media activist Ayman Bajbouj, a victim who died of his wounds



Picture of the victim Ibrahim Al About who died of his wounds



A number of relief activists and local media activist told SNHR about the glaring negligence and the detonating medical state in the southern region in general, and also about a dire shortage in special equipment and medical personnel especially in the field of microvascular surgery. Even if the wounded were to illegally enter Jordan, it is impossible to admit them to hospitals due to the lack of an entry permit by the Jordanian authorities.

A picture showing a medical team trying to evacuate a wounded to Jordan that was rejected by the Jordanian authorities





SNHR calls on the Jordanian authorities to:

First: Allow access to all the refugees trapped at the borders whose houses and stores were destroyed. These people have risked their lives to arrive and stay in a desert dry area especially women and children, and to transfer them to Al Azraq refugee camp.

Second: to immediately grant access to the 12 wounded who are in critical conditions and to save their lives. It is not right for the Jordan government to sit idly by watching the wounded die on the borders. Furthermore, Jordan should allow access to the other wounded.

Third: Hundreds of refugees who were trapped at the borders have returned to their destroyed homes or to other dangerous areas while thousands of others have refrained from seeking refuge in Jordan after the borders were shut down almost completely for almost two years. Jordan has to, at least, allow access to the people waiting at the borders because, and despite the disastrous conditions, it is their only choice.

