



## **A Wake-up Call: Arab Countries Have to Host More Syrian Refugees Arab Maghreb countries are the worst to host Syrian Refugees**

The High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that the number of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries has increased to 4 million. However, the estimations of Syrian Network for Human Rights are much greater since thousands of refugees are not registered at the UNHCR. The Commission stated that Turkey alone hosts almost half of the Syrian refugees, since it pursues an open-door policy regarding the Syrian crisis and it expects a new influx of refugees.

By contrast, a number of Arab countries impose tight restrictions on hosting Syrian refugees, not mentioning that refugees in these countries are continuously harassed. Egypt, for example, under President Sisi, demanded Syrian refugees to have visa entries and deported dozens of them. Further, Arab Maghreb countries host a limited number of Syrian refugees, estimated by few thousands. They impose tight restrictions and measures on Syrians, even those who are highly qualified and wish to enter their lands. Some Arab countries even refuse to issue visa entries for refugees' relatives. Subsequently, it has become impossible for Syrians to obtain employment contracts in Arab countries.

Arab countries are entitled to take different security precautions to protect their lands, but nonetheless their lack of support for Syrian relief and national organizations and neighboring countries is worsening this crisis. The number of Syrian refugees has surpassed the number of Palestinian refugees in the past, thus creating the biggest refugee crisis in our time. As a result to this hindrance, hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees are doomed to either go back to their countries and risk their lives, or to illegally immigrate across the Mediterranean and risk it all.

Syrian people are experiencing one of the worst catastrophic crises in its history due to the violent oppression and atrocities committed by governing authorities. Refugees once had their own jobs and careers, houses and properties and had to flee their country by force not by choice fearing their lives. Arab countries should support the Syrian refugees at least in humanitarian terms and not abandon them. The Arab League should uphold its responsibility towards the Syrian people and contribute to finding suitable solutions for this ongoing tragic conflict.

