

# UNICEF: 85% of Syrian Refugee Children in Jordan in Poverty

AMMAN (Dispatches) – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has warned that 85 percent of Syrian refugee children in Jordan live in poverty, having a difficult time in satisfying their most “basic needs.”

According to figures announced by the UN agency on Sunday, some 38 percent of Syrian refugee children are also not in school and almost half of those under the age of five do not have access to proper healthcare.

The findings, which were based on interviews by hundreds of families among Jordan’s 660,000 registered Syrian refugees, showed that refugee children “are facing a more challenging time in meeting their minimum basic needs,” said Robert Jenkins, the UNICEF’s Jordan representative.

According to official figures, the overall number of registered

and unregistered Syrian refugees in the Arab Kingdom stands at about 1.3 million.

Around 5.5 million Syrians have fled the foreign-backed militancy in their homeland since 2011, most of whom living in neighboring countries where they desperately struggle to survive.

The UN children agency in Jordan lacks some \$145.7 million for child programs in 2018, said Jenkins, urging donor countries to step up at a time of growing need.

Jordan on Sunday welcomed a resolution by the UN Security Council urging Syria to provide urgent aid to the refugees, including those stranded in the Rukban area near the Jordan-Syrian border.

Jordan’s Minister of State for Media Affairs Mohammad Momani said the UN resolution is



Syrian refugee children play at Azraq refugee camp in Jordan, on September 9, 2016.

in line with Jordan’s stance that it is the responsibility of Syria to provide aid to the Syrians in Rukban, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

In the resolution, the UN Security Council expressed its concerns about the humanitarian situation of the internally dis-

placed persons in Rukban, while highlighting the need to ensure humanitarian access to the area.

It reiterated its grave distress at the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria, including in Eastern Ghouta near the capital Damascus, Idlib governorate, Northern Hama governorate, Rukban and Raqqa.

## Hezbollah Warns Lebanese Against Voting for Pro-U.S. Candidates



Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, delivers a televised speech from the city of Baalbek, eastern Lebanon, on February 24, 2018.

BEIRUT (Press TV) – The secretary general of the Hezbollah resistance movement has warned the Lebanese nation against voting for pro-U.S. candidates in the forthcom-

ing parliamentary elections, saying such contenders will simply hand over the Arab country to Americans.

Addressing his supporters via a televised speech from the eastern

Lebanese city of Baalbek, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah called upon people from all walks of life to participate in the elections, which are scheduled to be held on May 6.

“Voters should consider national interests when picking candidates and voting for them. People should approach the upcoming legislative polls from the perspective of fulfilling responsibilities towards the country,” he said.

Nasrallah further noted, “Voters should not make their decisions on the basis of candidates’ family connections, religious or party affiliations.”

The Hezbollah chief went on to say that the movement’s legislators represented the entire Lebanese nation, and not simply their political bloc.

Nasrallah added that Lebanese voters should not cast their ballots

in favor of those who would hand over the country to the U.S., compromise over oil reserves with the Israeli regime, conspire against Hezbollah or destroy the country’s economy.

He said when voting in parliamentary elections, people should ask themselves what Hezbollah had offered to Lebanon and the nation, concerning the anti-Israel resistance front, stability and services.

“Your support for Hezbollah in the elections preserves the blood of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the resistance movement,” Nasrallah said.

Nasrallah also warned against the plots being hatched by Washington in the Middle East, describing the recent tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in line with attempts to carry out such schemes.

## Hamas Slams Saudi FM’s ‘Misleading’ Remarks

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has condemned recent remarks made by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubair, who said the Gaza-based resistance movement was “extremist”.

Hamas said in a statement that the Saudi foreign minister seeks to mislead the public opinion and distort the image of the legitimate Palestinian resistance.

Hamas said that these remarks would encourage the Zionist regime to commit further crimes against the Palestinian people.

Jubair’s claims are inconsistent with the Muslim world’s stance towards the Palestinian cause and its support for the Palestinian people.

Addressing the European Parliament in Brussels on Friday, al-Jubair described Hamas as “extremist” and claimed that Qatar had stopped its support for the Palestinian movement and this has “facilitated the handover” of government offices in Gaza to the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority.

The handover was actually part of a historic reconciliation deal reached between the resistance movement and its rival Fatah party in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, last year.

In a move to put an end to their decade-long rivalry, the two movements agreed in October 2017 to “enable the national unity government to carry out its work and assume its full responsibility in running the Gaza Strip, as is the case in the West Bank, by December 1, 2017.”

Fatah and Hamas have been at odds ever since the latter scored a landslide victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006. Since 2007, Hamas has been governing Gaza while Fatah has been based in the autonomous parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The two rival Palestinian factions finally agreed on a unity government in April 2014, but it fell apart months later.

The Fatah-Hamas reconciliation efforts have enraged Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who stressed that the regime would not accept “imaginary appeasement where the Palestinian side is reconciling at the expense of our existence.”

The Zionist premier has already said that he would put his stamp on reconciliation only if Hamas recognizes the occupying regime, disbands its military wing and cuts ties with Iran.

## Protest Held Against Tel Aviv’s Deportation of African Refugees

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Thousands of people have taken to the streets alongside African refugees in Tel Aviv to protest the Zionist regime’s policy of deporting and jailing asylum seekers.

The protest was held in the city’s southern regions where most of the asylum seekers live.

Participants of the rally held signs reading,

“No to deportation,” “We’re all humans” and “Refugees and residents refuse to be enemies.”

The occupying regime’s authorities on Tuesday started to transfer the first Eritreans, detained at the Holot open detention center, to Saharonim Prison after they refused to leave the occupied territories.

The regime started the implementation of

a plan in early January to force tens of thousands of African migrants out of the occupied territories, threatening to detain and jail those who refuse to leave.

The refugees will reportedly be deported to Rwanda or Uganda, according to testimonies of people who have already left as well as aid workers.

## U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

all humanitarian and international law,” Mahmoud said.

Turkey’s Foreign Ministry said the U.S. decision was “very worrying,” and showed Washington’s insistence to disturb peace.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said on Friday that Washington planned to open its embassy in Jerusalem Al-Quds in May.

The occupied Palestinian territories have witnessed a new wave of tension ever since U.S. President Donald Trump announced his decision last December to recognize Jerusalem Al-Quds as the “capital” of the Zionist regime and relocate the U.S. embassy to the occupied city.

The announcement triggered demonstrations in the occupied Palestinian territories, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and other Muslim countries.

## Terrorists... (Continued From Page One)

While Moscow supported adopting the resolution, Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia cast doubt on its feasibility.

Moscow has blamed Nusra terrorists from Al-Qaeda’s former Syria branch for provoking the situation in Ghouta.

Syrian state media said Ghouta terrorists shelled parts of Damascus. An army unit destroyed a rigged vehicle that militants tried to send into the capital a day earlier and killed the suicide attacker, a Syrian military source said.

## Erdogan... (Continued From Page One)

has had long-held military ties with Ankara.

The Syrian government has condemned both the “Turkish aggression” and the “illegitimate” U.S. presence in Syria, saying they violate international law and impede the political solution and victory over terrorism.

While Turkey is coming under mounting pressure over reports of rising civilian casualties, Erdogan has announced plans to expand the offensive to Manbij where Turkish troops are likely to face U.S.-led forces.

Erdogan said Turkey was on a mission to eradicate terrorism, which was key to preventing the re-emergence of colonialism, in another apparent dig at the U.S.

Ankara and Washington also appear to be at odds over Turkey’s purchase of the advanced Russian-made S-400 long-range air missile defense system.

On Saturday, a U.S. government official expressed concerns about Turkey’s planned purchase, saying talks were underway on alternatives to boost the country’s air defense.

“The U.S. understands Turkey’s desire to improve its air defenses. But we are concerned and have said so publicly about potential acquisition of Russian S-400 missiles, which would have implications for NATO interoperability and which would potentially expose Turkey to sanctions,” the Turkey’s Hurriyet Daily News quoted the unnamed official as saying.

In December, Turkey officially signed a \$2.5 billion agreement with Russia for the S-400s to become the first NATO member state to acquire the system.

Media reports also suggested that Iraq may buy the Russian S-400 system, triggering a U.S. warning of “potential repercussions.”

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Neuert said on Thursday that Washington had contacted many countries, including Iraq, to explain the significance of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), and possible consequences that would arise in the wake of defense agreements with Moscow.

“We are communicating with governments all around the world, such as Iraq and others, about the CAATSA law,” she said.

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He also tried to pretend that he was kind and friendly to the Iranian nation.

“We have no quarrel with the people of Iran, but we are absolutely resolute in our determination to stop and roll back the aggression of Iran’s regime,” said Netanyahu flagrantly.

The Zionist premier also lashed out at the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and claimed that the agreement had emboldened Iran.

“The nuclear agreement with Iran has begun the countdown to an Iranian nuclear arsenal in little more than a decade. And the sanction relief that the deal provided has not moderated Iran. In fact, it’s unleashed a dangerous Iranian tiger in our region and beyond,” Netanyahu said.

As it can be seen, Netanyahu’s speech was littered with threats and insults to Iran. However, it received no serious reaction from the Islamic Republic and other countries. It is high time for Iran to show the right reaction to Netanyahu’s threats and deal appropriately with his anti-Tehran rhetoric.