

# MISTREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS

**Egypt: 70,000 Palestinian refugees** were denied citizenship.

*"We can't own a house, land, or get a loan from the bank despite the fact that I was born here and have no idea what is Palestine."*—Ahmed Mahmoud Zahar (35), born in Egypt to an Egyptian mother and married an Egyptian wife

**Lebanon: 400,000 Palestinian refugees** were denied citizenship and basic rights. Palestinian refugees make up 10 percent of Lebanon's population, but are denied rights to social services, property ownership, and 70 occupations.

*"For 55 years now, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have been oppressed and robbed of their most basic civil rights...a degrading life."*—Ibrahim al-Shayeb, Lebanese refugee and PLO media office employee

**Syria: 410,000 Palestinian refugees** were denied citizenship rights. Syria refused entry to 3,000 Palestinian refugees fleeing from Iraq who have been forced to live in "severe conditions" in camps on the Iraq-Syria border.

**Kuwait: 450,000 Palestinian refugees** were denied citizenship (until 1991). In 1991, 300,000 to 450,000 were abruptly expelled when Palestinians supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Those who remain "live under strict surveillance and enjoy only very limited rights." (Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report, 2000)

**Libya: 40,000 Palestinian refugees** were denied citizenship. In 1995-96, 30,000 were abruptly deported because Libya opposed the PLO entering the Oslo Peace Accords.

**Palestinian Authority (PA): 1.8 million Palestinian refugees** were denied better living conditions and integration. The PA refused to invest any of its billions of foreign-aid dollars to improve refugee housing, claiming that until they get the right of return to Israel, their plight must remain "testimony to the crime that the occupation state made against our nation for 56 years." (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 29, 2004)

## The Palestinian people deserve better.

**Sources:** Paul Garwood and Maggie Michael, "Palestinian refugees: championed by Arab World yet treated like outcasts," Associated Press, December 31, 2003. United Nations, [www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2003/gaspd274.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2003/gaspd274.doc.htm). Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report, 2000, [www.arts.mcgill.ca/PRRN/hammarberg.html](http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/PRRN/hammarberg.html). Canadian Council for Refugees, NGO Delegation to Palestinians, November 2008 at [www.ccrweb.ca/en/view/palestinians](http://www.ccrweb.ca/en/view/palestinians)