

The Mistreatment of the Palestinians Must Stop

Egypt, 70,000 Palestinian refugees: "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." – 35-year-old Ahmed Mahmoud Zahar, born in Egypt to an Egyptian mother and married to an Egyptian

Lebanon, 390,000 Palestinians (10% of Lebanon's population) have no right to become citizens or have legal status.

"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, who lives in the Ein el-Hilew refugee camp and works for the PLO's media office. Palestinians are ineligible by Lebanese law from owning property or passing on an inheritance.

Syria, 410,000 Palestinian refugees have no right to become citizens.

Kuwait, 450,000 Palestinian refugees (until 1991) had no right to become citizens. Following the 1st Gulf War 300,000 to 450,000 Palestinians were abruptly expelled because Palestinians had sided with Iraq. Many had been living in Kuwait for three generations. 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 (until 1998) have no right to become citizens. 30,000 Palestinians were abruptly deported in 1995-96 because Moammar Ghadhafi opposed the peace accords signed between Israel and Arafat.

West Bank and Gaza, 1,586,512 refugees are administered by UNRWA. The Palestinian Authority has done nothing to improve the living conditions of the refugees. During the 1970s, The PLO threatened and killed those who tried to escape the camps. And when when Israel tried to improve the living conditions and housing of Palestinian refugees in Gaza and the West Bank around the same time, it was blocked by the PLO and the United Nations in a series of UN General Assembly resolutions denouncing Israel's humanitarian actions.

The Palestinian people deserve better.