

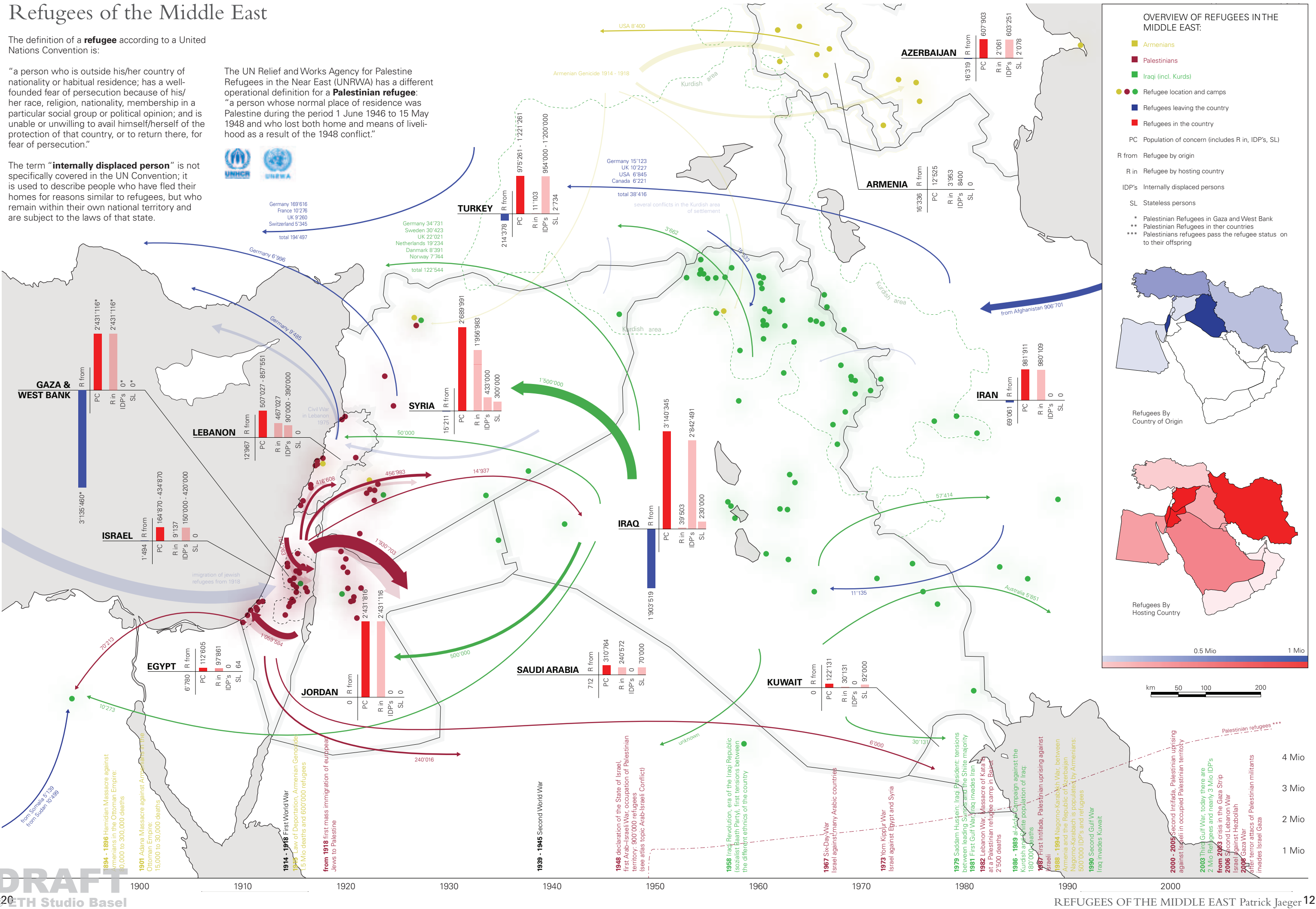
Refugees of the Middle East

The definition of a **refugee** according to a United Nations Convention is:

“a person who is outside his/her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/ her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.”

The term “**internally displaced person**” is not specifically covered in the UN Convention; it is used to describe people who have fled their homes for reasons similar to refugees, but who remain within their own national territory and are subject to the laws of that state.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has a different operational definition for a **Palestinian refugee**: “a person whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948 and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.”



REFUGEE LOCATION IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS:

- Armenians refugees
- Palestinians refugees
- Iraqi refugees
- Refugee Camps
- Urban Immigration
- Refugee Population
- * approximate number. Iraqi refugee population increased rapidly the last years.

MAR ELIAS REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian refugee camp 1952 established for P. refugees 615 Palestinians

The smallest camp in Lebanon. The camp accomodate mainly Christian Palestinians.

There is a high incidence of chronic disease in this camp, with many refugees suffering from hypertension, cancer and diabetes. Its infrastructure needs comprehensive rehabilitation.

BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian refugee camp 1948 established for P. refugees 16'066 Palestinians

The camp suffered heavily throughout the Lebanese Civil War. Refugees' property was heavily damaged and nearly a quarter of the camp's population was displaced.

The environmental conditions in the camp are especially poor.



DBAYEH REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian refugee camp 1956 established for P. refugees 4,048 Palestinians

Due to its location, the camp suffered a great deal of violence and destruction during the civil war. In 1990 alone, 25% of its shelters were destroyed or severely damaged and over 100 of its principally Christian Palestine refugee families were displaced. It is the only remaining Palestinian refugee camp in the East suburbs of Beirut. Large unemployment.



ANTELIAS

1920 fondet by Armenians 4'000 Armenians

The inhabitants are mainly Christians and include Maronites, Greek Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Armenians. Antelias is the seat of the Catholicos of Cilicia of the Armenian Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia.

BOURJ HAMMOUD AND KARM EL ZEITOUN (AND FORMER SANJAK, KHALIL BADAWI AND QARANTINA)

1915 foundet by Armenians 100'000 Armenians

Bourj Hammoud is an industrious area and is one of the most densely-populated districts in the Middle East. It was founded by survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and expanded mostly during the 1930s. they were given the right to construct shacks in the North-East of the city, what was then only a swamp. They were then allowed to erect houses and buildings which stand to this day.

During its founding and early settlement, Bourj Hammoud was the focus of a rivalry between two Armenian political parties, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party, who struggled to control the newly established shanty-town.



SHATILA REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian refugee camp 1949 established for P. refugees 8,645 Palestinians

The camp was devastated during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and was frequently targeted during the Lebanese Civil War, which resulted in the destruction of property and displacement of refugees.

Environmental health conditions in Shatlia are extremely bad. Shelters are damp and overcrowded. Shelters often have open drains, and the sewerage system needs considerable expansion.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS

immigration since 2003 30'000* Iraqis

Most of the iraqi refugees in Lebanon have settled in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Most of them are shias.

JARAMANA REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian Refugee Camp 1948 established for P. refugees 18,740 Palestinians

Jaramana's main problem and concern is the demolition of shelters by the Government due to construction of a highway to Jaramana. Moreover, a large number of refugee families relocated.

Many of the refugees are street vendors, while others work in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling.

YARMOUK

unofficial Refugee Camp 1957 established for P. refugees 144'312 Palestinians

Yarmouk camp is home to the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Yarmouk resembles an urban quarter, and it looks very different from the other Palestine refugee concentrations in Syria. It accomodate refugees who were scattering in mosques, schools and other public places. Over the years, the refugees have improved their shelters and added more rooms to them. Today, the camp is crowded with cement block homes, and is densely populated.

Many of the refugees in Yarmouk are professional, working as doctors, engineers and civil servants. Others are employed as casual labourers and street vendors. Overall, living conditions in Yarmouk are far better than those of the other Palestine refugee camps in Syria.



DAMASCUS

BAB SHARKI AND BAB TOUMA

immigration after 1915 7'000* Armenians

Most Armenians lived within the high walls of Old Damascus in the Christian neighbourhoods.

SBEINEH REFUGEE CAMP

official Palestinian Refugee Camp 1948 established for P. refugees 21'210 Palestinians

The majority of refugees work in Sbeineh's factories and industrial plants. Women often work as housemaids in Damascus to supplement family income.

As in other camps, water and sanitation management remains one of the biggest problems.

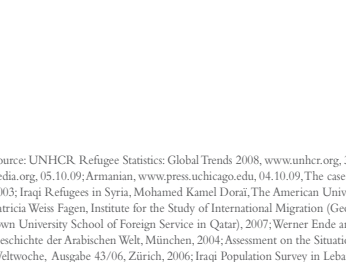


SAYDA ZAYNAB

immigration since 2003. 80'000* Iraqis

Inhabitants belong to lower middle class but mainly poor refugees.

Is home to the largest mainly shiite Iraqi refugee community in Damascus. Sayda Zaynab was always dominated by Syrian Shias. 57% of all Iraqi refugees in Syria are shiite.



MASSAKEN BARZEH (AND OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS IN CENTRAL DAMASCUS)

immigration since 2003 10'000* Iraqis

Refugees belong, for their majority, to the middle class, because the rental prices are more expensive.

JARAMANA

immigration since 2003 60,000* Iraqis

Inhabitants belong to lower middle class and poor refugees. Jaramana hosts numerous internal migrants, like Syrian families and students, because of the relatively low level of the rents and ist rapidly growing. The arrival of high numbers of Iraqis since 2003 strongly contributes today to this development. New irregular buildings appear everyday. In parallel, small shops open along the main roads. Whereas the presence of Iraqis is very important in Jaramana, their visibility through the development of many shops and restaurants on the main street, have generated some tension with the local population.



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Source: UNHCR Refugee Statistics: Global Trends 2008, www.unhcr.org, 30.09.09; UNRWA Palestinian, www.un.org/unrwa/refugee, 05.10.09; www.wikipedia.org, 05.10.09; Armanian, www.press.uchicago.edu, 04.10.09; The case of Beirut, Mona Fawaz and Isabelle Peillen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2003; Iraqi Refugees in Syria, Mohamed Kamel Dorai, The American University in Cairo, Egypt, 2007; Iraqi Refugees: Seeking Stability in Syria and Jordan, Patricia Weiss Fagen, Institute for the Study of International Migration (Georgetown University) and Center for International and Regional Studies (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar), 2007; Werner Ende and Udo Stenbach, Der Islam in der Gegenwart, Bonn, 2005; Ulrich Haarmann, Geschichte der Arabischen Welt, München, 2004; Assessment on the Situation of Iraqi Refugees in Syria, UNHCR, 2006; Armenien: Es war kein Völkermord, Weltwoche, Ausgabe 43/06, Zürich, 2006; Iraqi Population Survey in Lebanon: A Report, Danish Refugee Council, Beirut, 2007