

The people to go out
on the



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The Syrian crisis has become the largest humanitarian emergency crisis in the world today not only because it negatively impacts the Syrians citizens within the nation but also because of violation of human rights that persists throughout the conflict. March 2011, as a part of the Arab Spring, a group of Pro-democracy protestors rose against the Syrian government in the southern city of Deraa after some teenagers, who painted revolutionary slogans on a school walls, were caught and tortured. Security forces, after encountering the protest, opened fire on the protestors, killing several demonstrators; this tragic event triggered more and more people to go out on the streets and protest against President Assad and his government. By July 2011, hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens were demanding the resignation of President Assad and clashing with security forces that continuously used violence to resolve the issue. Eventually, the protestors started to arm themselves and fight against the government. Since the uprising of violent battles in March 2011, armed forces started to battle over the control of cities, towns, and countryside.

Continuous fighting not only destroyed the civilian living quarters and medication centers but also threatened the civilians to evacuate the city and find shelter in different regions; some were internally displaced and some fled to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan. 190, 000 men, women, and children killed, triggering more and more people to find ways to escape Syria for food, shelter, water, and healthcare. According to reports, an estimate of 11. 6 million Syrian citizens was forced to flee their homes, and the number is escalating every day. The humanitarian situation in Syria has been deteriorating since the start of the civil war due to high levels

of violence, intensified battles, disregard of international laws and obligation to protect Syrian citizens, and human rights violations committed by all parties. Continuous efforts to negotiate a ceasefire have failed to tackle the issue. With their education systems, healthcare centers, and other infrastructures shattered to pieces, 13.

5 million people in Syria are desperately in need for humanitarian aid: 6.5 million are displaced, 4.6 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including over 480,000 besieged. Though international organizations are seeking to reach into Syria to provide humanitarian aid, increased number of active conflicts has often disrupted supply roads and forced humanitarian organizations to halt their operations or reduce the size. Especially in Yarmouk, a suburb of Damascus, the Syrian army has blocked all entry of food and water, goods, and medical supplies that were supposed to be provided to the 250,000 besieged civilians who are on the brink of starvation.

Syrian children, the future of Syria, have missed their opportunities to receive education, lost their loved ones at an early age, suffered from injuries, diseases, and malnutrition, and saw the brutality and violence of a civil war. Furthermore, those children who lost their parents and bounded in Syria are being recruited as child soldiers to serve as human shields and supports. Refugee children in different nations aren't under the best condition either; children are especially exposed to sexual abuses and molestation in unfamiliar and overcrowded living conditions. It was reported that 11.

6 million Syrian civilians were forced to leave their homes due to the presence of an armed conflict. Of the 11.6 million civilians who fled,

about 7.6 million are sheltering within Syria while 4 million refugees are in other countries. 95 % of the 4 million refugees sought shelter in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt, all of which are neighboring countries of Syria. Turkey currently is hosting the largest number of refugees, providing shelter to about 2.75 million registered refugees (4/1/16 data).

Though hosting these desperate refugees is helpful, the negative consequences of hosting have long been an issue for the hosting community. As refugees arrive in neighboring countries, especially Turkey, social effects such as “the increase in polygamy, a higher divorce rates because of polygamy, women and child abuse, social and sectarian polarization and urban sprawl” (Effects of the Syrian Refugees on Turkey, 16) negatively impact both the refugees and the locals. For example, the inflows of a large population of refugees in certain cities have caused feelings of insecurity among the local citizens. Economic impacts on the hosting nations are crucial aspects to take into consideration. With the sudden increase in population, demand for basic food products and houses rose, automatically raising the prices of the products and rents. Due to higher rental prices, locals either have to pay a higher price or leave. Average inflation in major cities that accepted refugees had negative effects on the local citizens.

Furthermore, the use of Syrian refugees in the industry, businesses, and agriculture as cheap, illegal workers has increased unemployment within the local community. The rise of Syrian shops, bakeries, and shoe manufacturers does contribute to the local economy; however, these businesses are predominantly illegal, creating an unfair competition between the local businesses and the Syrian businesses. Despite the countless solutions

presented to solve the humanitarian issue, the situation in Syria has been deteriorating since the start of the civil war due to high levels of violence, intensified battles, disregard of international laws, and human rights violation committed by all parties. Throughout the years, more and more people have suffered because of neglect and indifference. I aim to shed light on this issue and acknowledge the inhumane conditions these people face.