Timeline of Decisions, Raids, and Discriminatory Practices Against Syrian Refugees

July 2022-October 2023

Housing Monitor

Timeline Key

Practices Against Syrian Refugees carried out by:

- Government, Ministries and Parliament
- Local Authorities (Municipalities or Governors)
- Security Forces
- Lebanese Civilians
- Other

Numbers of documented Eviction Threats

2022

JULY — 17

- 26 — Proposal for an expedited repeated law **to prevent the integration of "displaced Syrians"** on the Parliament's agenda.
- 30 — Military Intelligence begins its campaign to **confiscate Internet transmitters** from Syrian refugee camps in the Bekaa.

AUG — 26

SEPT — 22

OCT — 19

- Security forces continue their campaign to **confiscate radios, televisions, phones, routers and satellite dishes** from Syrian refugee's tents in West Bekaa.

NOV — 12

DEC — 15

2023

JAN — 16

- A significant **increase in racist discourse** and **defamatory** media campaigns against Syrian refugees.
- 10 — The Ministry of Education decides **to halt the education of Syrian refugee children in the afternoon.**
- The Municipality of Ain Baal requests its "non-Lebanese" residents to **obtain special cards from its premises, or be penalized with legal action.**

FEB — 145

- 8 — The Municipality of Al-Marie and Al-Majeediye imposes a **quarantine on Syrian refugees** within its jurisdiction, under the pretext of suspecting a family to be infected with cholera.
- 13 — State security forces raid a Syrian refugee camp in Majdal Anjar and **evict five families.**

MAR — 101

- Ras el Matn Municipality imposes **a special fee on Syrian refugees as compensation** for the services it provides.
- 17 — The governor of Baalbek-Hermel **verbally attacks Syrian refugees** with the support of the authority's media.

APR — 227

- **Racist campaign** on Syrian refugees escalates.
- Intensification of **arrests and forced deportations** of Syrian refugees.
- 2 — Syrian refugees **expelled from the Jeleideh plain** in Baalbek-Hermel.
- 4 — The Governor of Nabatieh **bans the use of motorcycles** for Syrian refugees at night.
- 20 — The Beirut municipality **drains the fountain** in Samir Kassir Square due to Syrian **children swimming** in it.
- 24 — The Harajel municipality **prohibits the movement** of foreign workers in the town **from 7:00 PM until 6:00 AM.**
- **The General Federation of Lebanese Trade Unions** launches the "National Campaign to Liberate Lebanon from the Syrian Demographic Occupation".
- Feytroun Municipality **bans Syrian refugees from gathering** and commuting by motorcycle after 7:00 PM.
- 25 — The municipality of Bint Jbeil calls on "brothers of Syrian nationality" residing within its jurisdiction to **register their names** at the municipality's office, under the threat of **forced deportation.**
- Military Intelligence **intensifies raids on the residences of Syrian refugees**, including arresting and forcibly deporting them.
- The municipality of Jeita **prohibits the movement** of foreign workers in the town from **7:00 PM until 6:00 AM.**
- At the request of the Minister of Interior, the General Directorate of Internal Security Forces **prohibits Syrian refugees from demonstrating.**
- 27 — The Lebanese army raids a Syrian refugee camp in Qaraoun town and **arrests 120 people** for not having identity papers.
- 29 — The municipality of Bqosta obliges "Syrian nationals" to go to the municipal center for registration, noting the need for them to obtain legal **residency papers under penalty of immediate deportation.**

MAY — 59

- Police officers in the municipality of Qartaba begin **patrols to verify the implementation** of the provisions of the municipal council decision related to the issue of **"displaced Syrians"** in the town.
- The Lebanese army continues its **raids and arrests** of Syrian refugees in the **Bekaa.**
- General Security announces the **cessation of receiving requests** to settle the status of "Syrian nationals" entering Lebanon illegally.
- According to Access Center for Human Rights - ACHR report, the Lebanese Army has **arrested 808 Syrian refugees** between April and mid-May and deported 336 refugees. It is noteworthy that the figures suggest the **deportation of 900 to 1,400 refugees.**
- **Decision to dollarize aid** to Syrian refugees suspended days after it was approved, following a deceptive campaign orchestrated by the Minister of Social Affairs.
- 2 — A letter from the Minister of Interior and Municipalities to the Governors, District Commissioners, Municipalities, and Mayors, regarding the launch of a comprehensive **survey, census, and registration campaign for the numbers of "Syrian displaced individuals".**
- A letter from the Minister of Interior and Municipalities to the Higher Commissioner for Refugees, requesting the provision of **detailed data on "Syrian refugees"** to the General Directorate of General Security.
- A letter from the Minister of Interior and Municipalities to the Ministry of Justice, **to not issue any document or contract to any Syrian** refugee, without his/her pre-registration at the concerned municipality.
- 8 — A decision by the Governor of Beirut regarding the national survey campaign **to enumerate and register "Syrian refugees".**
- 11 — **The army raids Camp 007** in the town of Ghazze in Western Bekaa.

JUNE — 36

- The municipality of Bzebdine obliges Syrian refugees residing in the town to obtain an **identification card and pay a housing fee of 10 million Lebanese pounds** to allow them to continue residing in the town.
- The municipality of Dekwaneh launches **random inspection** campaigns on Syrian homes, forcing some of them, after their **arrest and confiscation of their documents, to sign a pledge to return to their country.**

JULY — 84

- 11 — The governor of Nabatieh prohibits foreigners from entering Nabatieh throughout the days of Ashura, and from roaming in the city and its surroundings in the evening, except with **permits issued by the Nabatieh Gendarmerie.**
- 13 — Fourteen members of parliament from various blocs submit a **petition** demanding the convening of a parliamentary session to vote on a resolution tasking the government with implementing an **immediate plan for the voluntary repatriation of Syrian refugees.**

AUG — 143

- 8 — Lebanon and UNHCR reach an agreement concerning the **transfer of data for all Syrian refugees residing in Lebanese territory.**
- The security authorities in the northern Akkar region summon and detain several Syrian refugees, **questioning them without legal justification.**
- 18 — The General Directorate of General Security **deported a number of Syrian refugees**, including a fifty-year-old woman.
- 22 — The Dekwaneh Municipality announces the commencement of a widespread campaign aimed at **confiscating all unauthorized motorcycles driven by Syrian refugees.**
- 28 — The Litani River Authority files a report with the **Public Prosecution regarding hazardous environmental violations resulting from Syrian refugee camps.**

33

SEP

7 The Minister of Foreign Affairs calls for **facilitating and expediting the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland** during a meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo.

11 The Lebanese army continues its arbitrary raids, **confiscating routers and solar panels in residential** areas and Syrian refugee camps in the governorates of Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel.

The Cabinet adopts and approves stringent measures regarding Syrian refugees, including an **"action plan" to address the displacement issue.**

12 The government urges municipalities to promptly report any **suspicious activities and gatherings related to Syrian refugees.**

The Minister of Interior and Municipalities issues **two letters to governors, instructing them to reject any donations directed towards Syrian refugees.**

16 **The army raids a Syrian refugee** camp in Taibah Al-Bekaa with the support of Bekaa intelligence, **dismantling solar panels** as a precautionary measure to prevent long-term residency.

18 The Municipality of Ghobeiry initiates a campaign to **prohibit the operation of tuk-tuks and motorcycles driven by "foreigners"** without proper registration or driving licenses.

The Minister of Industry issues a **warning** to establishments, cautioning them against **employing** Syrian refugees **illegally**. He emphasizes that failure to comply will result in the **withdrawal of their licenses.**

19 Three members of parliament propose a **law aimed at regulating temporary residencies and the deportation** of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

28 The municipality of Baysour imposes **a fee of four million Lebanese pounds** in addition to municipal stamp fees on Syrian refugees under the threat of deportation.

The Northern Governor issues stringent measures to **regulate the presence of Syrian refugees**

29 Residents in the Rmeil Achrafieh area stage a **protest against the illegal presence of Syrian refugees.**

Local authorities and residents of Barja emphasize the **need to regulate the presence of Syrian refugees in the town.**

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18

OCT

1 Three young men from the Achrafieh area targeted **two Syrian youths with physical assault, humiliation, and degradation** for an hour in Fassouh, Achrafieh.

5 The Governor of Beirut requests **intensifying patrols** to eradicate the phenomenon of "begging" by non-Lebanese children.

A unit from the General Directorate of State Security in Nabatieh initiates **a campaign to dismantle Syrian refugees' tents in the area.**

5 An altercation between two individuals escalates into a **mass attack on Syrian sewing factory** workers in the Dora area. Calls are made through loudspeakers for **the local residents to gather "against Syrians" and demand their removal from the area.**

Documented **attacks on some businesses** owned by Syrians in the Dora area, leading to their **closure.**

The establishment of checkpoints and organization of civil and partisan marches in Rmeil, Ashrafieh, to apprehend individuals suspected to be Syrian, under the supervision of the Lebanese Forces.

6 Young men on motorcycles roam around Sin el Fil and Naba'a, and **physically assault Syrian refugees.**

Scattered attacks by Lebanese individuals against Syrian men and women in Jal El Dib, Sabtieh, Bourj Hammoud, Naba'a, Sin el Fil, Dekwaneh, Choueifat, Barja, and Aramoun.

Shutting down shops owned by Syrians, with the involvement of local authorities in Bauchrieh.

7 A group of civilians break into four apartments in Bourj Hammoud inhabited by Syrian residents, **forcibly entering after damaging the doors.** They **physically assaulted several occupants and vandalized their belongings.**

9 Jbeil Municipality issues a statement **prohibiting the leasing of any property to any undocumented Syrian refugee, and banning gatherings.** It instructs the security forces to suppress violations.

11 New measures regarding Syrian refugees in Zgharta aim to register and inspect their residences, and **warn unlicensed businesses operated by them to shut down.**

Rmeish Municipality **refuses to accept Syrian refugees displaced** from Aita Al-Shaab.

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