What if you were living in a refugee camp?

Kuwait Times



In a step that reflects the amount of anxiety and concern in the Middle East region, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council states decided to establish a GCC emergency center, to be headquartered inkwarit, in order to provide all preparations and means to face disasters, whether natural or manmade. These risks that could come from within Gulf states or nearby countries include earthquakes and unexpected and violent weather fluctuations, as well as war threats and nuclear arsenals.

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I believe that a unified emergency center is important to achieve coordination with regional and international observatories and improve Gulf states' risk-management capabilities. In order to face potential dangers efficiently, the center requires joint efforts to maintain full preparedness at all times against all kinds of possible risks.

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The stability of Gulf states as well as their economic, security and even strategic integration must always remain their top priority. In fact, this was the essential reason behind the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council over three decades ago. The Arab world is going through a very critical period of noncreative chaos and videogame-like con-flicts, which requires efforts to stay alert regarding their direct and indirect effects. The need for these efforts becomes greater if we consider threats of 'changing the map of the Arab world' or breaking its countries down to smaller states. Achieving international peace and security always



DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO GO ON STRIKE

do not know whether oil sector employees are right in their demands, but I know for certain that they have the right to go on strike to achieve what they demand. It is important to differentiate between the right to demonstrate or go on strike - in a case of freedom of opinion - and between the reason why those actions are carried out. The right to demonstrate or go on strike remains guaranteed in democratic societies. Dilligent and

Muslim Brotherhood, accusing the pan-Arab party of Instigating labor forces and using them to seek revenge from the government.

It is clear that there are people who use the Muslim Brotherhood as a bogety to scare people away from anything that they do not desire, especially when it comes to public demands to improve political and living conditions. The Muslim Brotherhood is not a threat to the people, at

WHAT IF YOU WERE LIVING IN A REFUGEE CAMP?



By Harun Yahya

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014

ave you ever thought of taking to the streets on a cold winter day with no possessions, money, food or even an ID card? Can you imagine having your children with you and having nothing to protect them or keep them warm with? Six million Syrians had never thought of that either, but today they have all had to abandon their homes. For these people who have become refugees, the real problem starts now; dispersed families and poor and unhealthy living conditions. Thousands losing their lives on the roads. It is the innocent Syrian people who have been affected by the harsh civil war raging in Syria for years. But how many people know that there are people in Syria who lived under very difficult conditions even before the civil war? Syria was one of the countries with the most refugee camps even before the civil war. Some of those in the very worst conditions in Syria, which hosts two million refugees in camps, are the Palestinians living there as refugees. The population of the Yarmouk refugee camp, initially set up for Palestinians fleeing 1948 Arab-Israeli war, reached 600,000 with increasing waves of migration.

Although some people have left the camp as the civil war went on, it still has a large refugee population. Life in the camp - which Assad's forces first attempted to intimidate with attacks and then placed under an embargo, refusing to allow food





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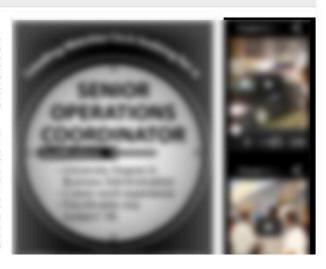
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Syria was one of the countries with the most refugee camps even before the civil war. Some of those in the very worst conditions in Syria, which hosts two million refugees in camps, are the Palestinians living there as refugees. The population of the Yarmouk refugee camp, initially set up for Palestinians fleeing 1948 Arab-Israeli war, reached 600,000 with increasing waves of migration. Although some people have left the camp as the civil war went on, it still has a large refugee population. Life in the camp which Assad's forces first attempted to intimidate with attacks and then placed under an embargo, refusing to allow food and medicines in - is becoming harder by the day. So much so that when people were forced for want of food to try and live on tree leaves last year, Syrian religious scholars issued a *fatwa* saying that "dog and cat meat can be eaten." That is by itself sufficient to show the conditions the people there are struggling to survive in. The refugees in the Yarmouk camp need urgent humanitarian assistance.

This is of course only one of the most urgent situations but the word "refugee" now represents the same difficulty for almost everyone. There is no improvement in the lives of all refugees, particularly in the Middle East, not just those forced to depart from Syria. Increasing numbers of people are being forced to abandon the places they live in every year. Some of these migrate within the country concerned, while the rest move to either neighboring or more distant lands. Afghan refugees, 95% of whom have sought refuge in neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Iran, represent the largest part of the world's refugees; one in every four refugees in the world is an Afghan. Afghanistan is followed by Somalia and Iraq. There are 450,000 UN-registered refugees in Lebanon. These refugees, living in 12 settlements under very harsh circumstances, are trying to survive in poverty. Their fundamental rights are denied them and they lack even symbolic political rights. In other words, these people are still living as refugees with no citizenship rights after 66 years. New generations are being born and growing up in refugee camps.

So how can this problem of refugees be solved? The first requirement for people forced to migrate because of troubles at home is the right to enter countries where they can be safe and can move around freely. In this way, they will not be forced to wait at border crossings after long journeys, and at least the first step in the journey will be made easier. There is an urgent need for a union of Muslim states, resembling the European Union, to be set up to resolve this problem and the growing refugee question in the Middle East. In this way, citizens of countries that enjoy free rights of movement into one another, like the EU, will have a way out when troubles arise and will be able to find a humanitarian corridor. Rights such as dual nationality and the right to work without visas will put an end to conditions that restrict refugees and prevent them from living under humane conditions and provide a solution that all people of good conscience can be comfortable with.

Even when we look at the implementation of a more humane phase by improving the lives of refugees, we still see the need for the Middle East to have its own union. In order for there to be a rapid solution to this emergency situation without lengthy political and bureaucratic procedures, everyone who espouses freedom and equality should call for such a union.

Adnan Oktar's article on Kuwait Times:

http://news.kuwaittimes.net/living-refugee-camp/

 $\underline{https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/what-if-you-were-living-in-a-refugee-camp}$