

The Issue of Refugee in Syria

Forum: Advisory Panel

Student Officer: JungWonMoon, Deputy Chair

Introduction

The term humanitarian crisis refers to “singular events that are threatening in terms of health, safety or well-being of a community or large group of people.” Since March 2011, the beginning of the Arab Spring, military forces have been involved in peaceful protests against the government in Syria. During six years of the war, approximately 47 million people died, and infrastructures were destroyed. United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC) More than 6.8 million Syrians have been forced to flee their country since 2011. Even though about 117,969,664 dollars were donated to Syrian refugees in 2016, more than 70 percent of Syrians are unable to get medical care and use fresh water. The significant number of refugees causes problems and requires immediate and permanent solutions.

Background

Syria is an Asian country located in the Eastern Mediterranean Ocean. The refugee issue in Syria is deeply related to the political problems in the Syrian government. Al-Assad’s family started their authoritarian regime in Syria in 1971. In 2010~2012, the spread of the so-called Arab Spring protests, which is a massive anti-government demonstration in the Arab world, overthrew numerous political systems including Syria. As conflicts between the protest groups and the government intensified, the protests resulted in civil war. During the civil war, many people, especially children, became refugees. Military groups such as Hezbollah, People's Protection Units, and Islamic Front were involved in the civil war and destroyed buildings, infrastructure, and roads. The conflicts of these various military groups threatened Syrian citizens. As a result, about one-third of Syrian people were chased from their home country. Eventually, nearly 4 million refugees occurred. These Syrian refugees accounted for 95% of the refugee camps in Syria’s neighboring countries.



A child who died during moving to Greece

Refugee problems influenced near countries and European countries. Gulf countries in southern Syria, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, have been criticized by the world as shameful acts when they refused to accept refugees. But the United Nations indicated that any countries worldwide are not ready to accept such large-scale refugees. As proof of that, most European countries refused to accept these refugees. Greece had many problems, such as an economic recession, making it challenging to accept mass refugees. In addition, as refugees flocked, the anxiety of tourists and residents increased. In the

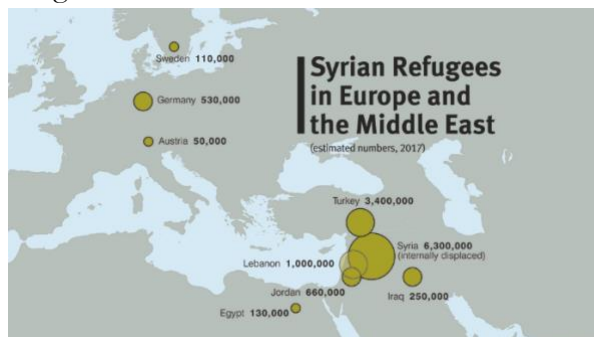
case of the United Kingdom, aid for refugees was being provided in the Mediterranean Sea, but it last stopped in 2014. However, numerous refugees risk their lives to cross the dangerous sea.

Possible Solutions

As this problem is related to political issues and near countries, there should be persistent solutions. Among the many problems that has influenced this issue, three of the most grave are the following:

1. Many people lost their legitimacy to the Syrian government due to Al-Assad's family's domination over 20 years and the conflicts between the government and citizens are increasing,
2. The increase in the number of refugees who are suffering from a lack of homes, water, and food due to destroyed facilities and food and water shortages in the Middle East,
3. Neighboring countries refused to accept refugees due to economic and political problems, so Syrian refugees do not have a place to go.

Therefore, it is necessary to solve conflicts, especially the civil war in Syria, and decrease the number of refugees. There should be a peaceful conversation between protest groups and the government to stop military interruption in Syria. Furthermore, there should be a persistent food supply by cooperating with Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide food and water to the refugees. Moreover, Europe Union (EU) should establish possible solutions about accepting refugees in peaceful and safe treatment and providing safe paths for them so that they do not have to come across the dangerous sea.



Population of Syrian Refugees

Glossary

Arab Spring: The wave of pro-democracy protests and uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa began in 2010 and 2011, challenging some of the region's entrenched authoritarian regimes.

Refugee: People are forced to leave their country because of several reasons, for example, war or conflict over religious beliefs.

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): The UNHCR is a humanitarian UNO established by the UN in 1950, and it has played a vital role in leading international actions to

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protect refugees worldwide.

European Union (EU): It is an organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies. It is designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single currency (the euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and advancing cooperation in immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.

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