



**LEBANON**

The second largest Palestinian Diaspora community lives in Lebanon, mostly originating in the Galilee and coastal towns. The refugees in Lebanon face the harshest conditions; a hostile attitude towards them prevails since the 1975 civil war and although they have been allowed to stay on a non-permanent basis they are denied any social rights. Their Lebanese travel documents are not recognized by most countries in the world, they must obtain work permits issued by the Lebanese authorities and are not allowed to work in the public sector at all, nor in over 70 other professions. Unemployment is consequently very high and aggravated by the fact that job-seekers have to compete with Syrian guest workers, who do not need to apply for residence or work permits. Refugees cannot own property without special permission, nor open any business. So far, the Lebanese government, which has declined to participate in the multilateral talks on refugees, has refused to even consider permanent settlement and/or naturalization of Palestinians on its territory, mainly because of the fragile balance of the Muslim and Christian populations.



**JORDAN**

After the 1948 War, when an estimated 100,000 refugees crossed the Jordan River, four refugee camps were set up in Jordan, followed by another six after the 1967 War, to accommodate additional refugees. Most of the refugees came originally from the Lydda-Ramle-Jaffa triangle and/or the Palestinian West Bank.

In Jordan, Palestinians are granted citizenship (since the 1954 Nationalities Act) and carry regular Jordanian passports, they are entitled to vote and to hold office, enjoy full rights to public services, and can work in the government sector. An exception are the ca. 100,000 stateless 1967 refugees from Gaza, and the 'latecomers', whose entry permits have expired; both groups are only eligible for temporary Jordanian passports. However, it should also be noted that especially since the armed clashes between Hashemite troops and Palestinian fighters in 1970 ('Black September'), Palestinian refugees are perceived as a potentially destabilizing factor in national politics and thus kept under the special scrutiny of state intelligence.

**SYRIA**

Most of the Palestine refugees who fled to Syria in 1948 were from the northern cities of Palestine, such as Safad and Haifa, while most 1967 refugees fled from the Golan Heights. The refugees enjoy the same rights as Syrian citizens with the exception of the right to vote, hold office, or possess Syrian passports. Instead, they hold travel documents, which are not recognized by many governments and thus limit their freedom of movement, but otherwise Palestinians are integrated, allowed to own certain kinds of property, and have access to educational facilities as well as the labor market. Their political rights are restricted, however, and there is a separate body - the Office for Palestinian Refugees - to supervise them. Syria, like Lebanon, has refused to participate in the multilateral talks.

