

Refugee Crisis: Join the Cause

BY ERIN ARCHER

SYRIA - As the refugee crisis continues, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is supporting Act for Peace's 'Ration Challenge', which takes place from the 19th to the 25th of June.

Participants who sign up for the week-long challenge, will receive the same amount of food a Syrian Refugee would receive in Jordan.

The UNHCR has called on all governments to back the initiative and for leaders to participate.

"I think people will be shocked at what refugees must survive on," UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards said.

The UNHCR said the aim of the challenge is to experience just one of a Syrian refugee's daily struggles, whilst raising money, creating awareness and making an actionable difference.

In a statement to The New York Times, Mr. Edwards expanded on the conditions that these refugees endure everyday in these urban camps in Jordan.

He said families are living among the local population (in basements, rooms or whatever accommodation they can find) and the UNHCR prioritise these families as they are harder to reach and receive less support than larger camps.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed his utmost support, as well as stating he will personally be taking part in the challenge.

He said it is important for foreign governments to take part in the challenge as they will be able to bring in support within their own countries.

"If some sign up then they will be able to experience some of the troubles that refugees experience."

With Mr. Ban's personal participation, the cause is hoping to gain legitimacy and mass attention.



UNHCR donated tents sit amongst pools of mud in refugee camp Syria. *Ella Scott for The New York Times*



Refugees line up to receive food rations in a refugee camp in Syria. *Ella Scott for The New York Times*

Participants signed up for the challenge will receive a ration pack that is based directly on how Syrian refugees find their food in camps.

All packs will contain the same food, in almost the same quantity, that are distributed by Act of Peace to Syrian refugees in Jordan, just a small amount of rice, lentils, chickpeas, sardines,

kidney beans and oil.

The kit also contains two food coupons; rice and flour, that participants can use to purchase additional food for the week.

All money raised through the initiative will go towards providing food and supplies for refugees.

"The militants attacked the mosque in the north of the city, by opening fire with fully automatic weapons."

Islamic Terror Strikers Iraqi City of Balad

BY BRADLEY JURD

A terrorist attack in the Iraqi city of Balad has killed 15 people and injured 34 others. The attacks occurred on Saturday afternoon, in the city 80 kilometres north

of the capital Baghdad.

Islamic State was quick to take responsibility of the attacks that happened at the Masjid Syed Martyrs Mosque.

"We wish to announce that three of our militants successfully attacked the city of Balad," an Islamic State

representative said.

"The militants attacked the mosque in the north of the city, by opening fire with fully automatic weapons."

Upon police arriving at the scene, the Islamic State militants denoted their three explosive vests.