

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 12 DECEMBER 2024

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

JORDAN – PALESTINIANS

A report issued in 2024 by *Freedom House* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that: “Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin risk the arbitrary revocation of citizenship or documentation and are often excluded from jobs in the public sector and security forces, which are dominated by East Bank tribes.”¹

In March 2024 the *United States Department of State* issued a report commenting on events of 2023 which included stating: “All Palestinian refugees of Jordanian nationality could vote irrespective of their location (e.g., residents of the 10 official UNRWA camps, three nonofficial camps, or residents not in camps) by virtue of their citizenship rights. Palestinian refugees without nationality could not vote in national or municipal elections or join political parties...”²

This document also notes that: “Four distinct groups of Palestinians resided in the country, not including the PRS. Many of these individuals reportedly faced some discrimination.”³

In July 2024 the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East* commenting on events of 2023 states that: “In Jordan, 2,393,135 Palestine refugees are registered with the Agency...the majority of whom hold Jordanian citizenship and enjoy the same rights as other Jordanians. The 179,992 Palestine refugees who fled Gaza to Jordan in 1967 stand as an exception. This group does not possess Jordanian citizenship and faces restricted access to some

¹ Freedom House (2024) *Freedom in the World 2024: Jordan*, p.10

² United States Department of State (22 April 2024) *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Jordan*, p.24

³ *ibid*, p.32

public services and livelihood opportunities, although their rights and privileges have expanded in recent years...”⁴

In March 2024 *Bertelsmann Stiftung* states that: “Following the establishment of Israel in 1948 and the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe), hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sought refuge on Jordanian territory and were granted citizenship by King Abdullah I. Today, their descendants make up the majority of Jordan's population, although the exact population breakdown between Jordanians of East Bank and Palestinian origins has not been made public officially. Estimates put the population at around 60% of Palestinian origin. Hence, the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians is a close one.”⁵

This document also states that: “...discrimination, notably between Muslims and non-Muslims and between transJordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin, do exist but are not considered systemic.”⁶

This document also states that:

“Historically, the upper echelons of the military, security services and public sector have been filled by non-Palestinian Jordanians, whereas citizens of Palestinian origin came to be active in business.”⁷

France 24 in March 2024 states that: “Jordan has succeeded in integrating Palestinian refugees into society and has offered the vast majority of them citizenship – an exception in the region. Palestinians now make up more than half the population and are considered the driving force behind the kingdom's economy”⁸

In July 2024 the *Congressional Research Service* states that: “...a significant percentage of Jordan's population is of Palestinian descent.”⁹

This document also states that: “According to UNRWA, more than 2 million registered Palestine refugees (comprising original refugees and their descendants) live in Jordan, the largest number of Palestine refugees of all UNRWA field sites, with 18% of all registered Palestine refugees living in the ten recognized camps inside Jordan...”¹⁰

It is also pointed out in this report that: “Jordanians of Palestinian origin make up an estimated 55% to 70% of the population. They tend to gravitate toward employment in the private sector, most likely due to their alleged general exclusion from certain public-sector and military positions...”¹¹

In July 2024 the *Guardian* states that: “More than 2 million Palestinians are registered as refugees in Jordan, and about half of the kingdom's population of more than 11 million are thought to have

⁴ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (8 July 2024) Annual Operational Report 2023, p.10

⁵ Bertelsmann Stiftung (19 March 2024) Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2024 Country Report – Jordan, p.3

⁶ *ibid*, p.12

⁷ *ibid*, p.25

⁸ France 24 (22 March 2024) Jordan: Meeting the Palestinians of Zarqa, three generations after the 'Nakba'

⁹ Congressional Research Service (1 July 2024) Jordan: Background and U.S. Relations, p.2

¹⁰ *ibid*, p.4

¹¹ *ibid*, p.9

Palestinian roots, including Queen Rania. Many have Jordanian citizenship but significant numbers of those who have arrived in recent decades do not”¹²

In October 2024 *Al Jazeera* states that: “Jordan...hosts about two million Palestinian refugees, around 370,000 of whom still live in camps, 10 of them official and three of them unofficial.”¹³

This document also states that: “More than 600,000 Palestinians in Jordan still do not have citizenship...”¹⁴

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¹² Guardian (8 July 2024) *'I panic when my phone rings': the plight of Palestinians in Jordan*, p.1

¹³ Al Jazeera (6 October 2024) *'The old will die and the young will forget'*, p.2

¹⁴ *ibid*, p.3

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UNHCR Refworld
UN Treaty Body Database
United States Department of State
World Bank

Contact Information

Refugee Documentation Centre
Legal Aid Board
48/49 North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7
Ireland

Email: research@legalaidboard.ie