Israeli Aid to Syria

Israel has assumed an ethical duty to help the victims of the brutal civil war in Syria. Despite security concerns, the Jewish state maintains a dedicated effort to supply aid to the beleaguered Syrian people.

Israel is taking an active role to help Syrian civilians that have been displaced and wounded during the war.

- Although still technically at war with Syria, Israel has opened its border to provide humanitarian aid\(^1\) to the war torn country, which has consistently refused to recognize the Jewish state’s existence.\(^2\)
  - In the words of former Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Ya’alon, Israel “cannot remain indifferent” in the face of such a humanitarian disaster.
    - Over 3,000 injured Syrians have been treated in Israel since the outbreak of the civil war.\(^3\)

- Moved by their own history of anti-Jewish persecution, thousands of Israelis are donating to help victims of the Syrian civil war.\(^4\)
  - The “Just Beyond our Border” crowdfunding campaign, launched on December 15, 2016, has raised over $435,000 through private donations to help Syrian children.\(^5\)
    - Meanwhile, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been the only Arab countries to provide significant humanitarian aid to the Syrian people.\(^6\)
    - Amalih, an Israeli organization, offers generous humanitarian services to the people of Syria, including food, medical aid, water, and hospital visits in Israel.\(^7\)
    - Since August 2016, Amalih has managed to bring in three busloads of Syrians — 120 children — to be treated in advanced Israeli hospitals.

- The treatment of sick and injured Syrians is fully covered by Israel: A third is paid for by the Ministry of Defense, a third is paid for by the Ministry of Health, and a third is paid for by the hospitals in which the patients are treated.\(^8\)

- Even in Jordan, Israeli NGOs are providing humanitarian relief to displaced refugees by supplying funds and basic necessities like food and water.\(^9\)
  - Since the Jordanian government lacked the resources necessary to help the Syrian refugees, they were eager to build a partnership with the NGOs.\(^10\)

---

\(^1\) The Jerusalem Post. For First Time During Syria War, Israel Opens Border For Humanitarian Aid. July 27, 2016.
\(^3\) Breitbart. Israel Treats Thousands of War-Wounded Syrians. April 8, 2017.
\(^6\) UNOCHA Regional Funding Update - Syria Crisis. Reported on 1 Dec. 2015
\(^7\) The Times of Israel. The ‘never again’ imperative: Why and how Israelis are helping Syrians. January 25, 2017.
\(^10\) Ibid.
Syrian civilians and rebel combatants seek Israel’s aid in secret, fearing the repercussions if discovered by their own people.

- Many **Syrians live in fear of Bashar Al-Assad’s military forces**. Israel protects the identities of the refugees who come to it for help, as the Syrian regime deems them “collaborators with Israel”.¹¹
- Israel Flying Aid (IFA), a non-profit, has been working undercover in Syria since 2011.
  - It “specializes in bringing life-saving aid... where local regimes prevent entry from formal international humanitarian organizations.”¹²
- The Israel Defense Forces stationed at the Syrian border transfer wounded Syrians to Israeli hospitals to provide them with the **best possible treatment, as quickly as possible.¹³**
  - Israeli medical response units are not concerned with the identity of Syrian citizens in need. Instead, they focus on saving the lives of wounded patients.¹⁴
    - “The ‘who’ does not matter, nor does the ‘where.’ The only thing that matters is treating… any patient and respecting the dignity of those in need.” -Dr. Ofer Merin, IDF Mobile Field Hospital Unit.¹⁵

---

¹⁵Dr. Ofer Merin, IDF Mobile Field Hospital. AIPAC 2017.