

# Monthly Trends Analysis



MMC Middle East & Eastern  
Mediterranean

JUNE 2018

The following trends analysis is put together on the basis of available secondary data at the time of publication. It is representative of the available information and therefore indicative of mixed migratory trends in the Middle East.

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) was established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise.<sup>1</sup>

The Mixed Migration Centre - Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean, provides quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy from a regional perspective. Our core countries of focus are Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Israel/OPT and Greece.

For more information visit: [mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org)

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1 This includes RMMS East Africa & Yemen, RMMS West Africa, the Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) in the Middle East, the Global Mixed Migration Secretariat (GMMS) in Geneva and different programmes of the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi).

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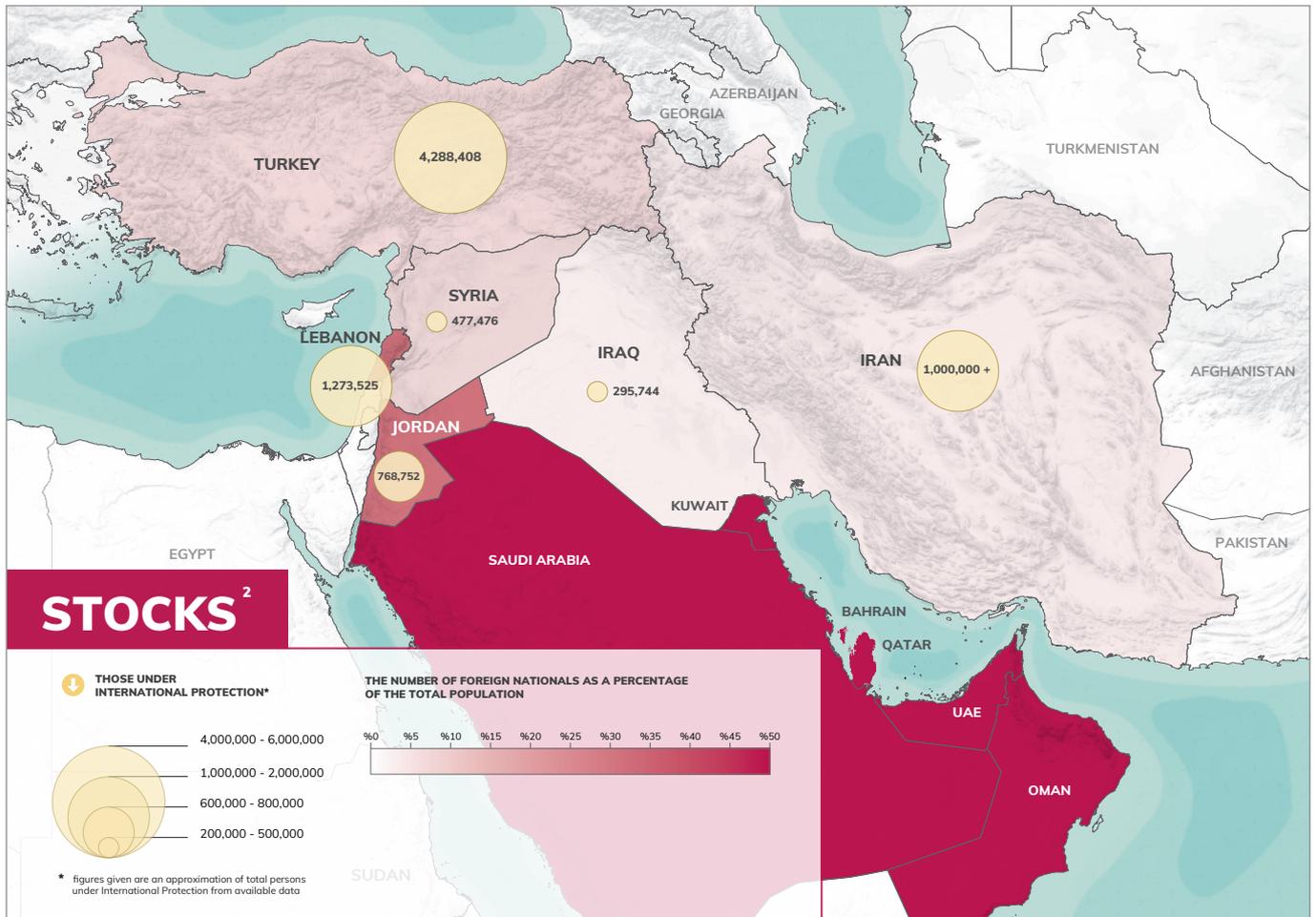
## Mixed Migration in the Middle East

In June, additional Syrians were displaced to Jordan's border area following ramped up military campaigns by the Syrian regime to capture remaining opposition areas, with 60,000 to 120,000 people gathering near the Al-Nasib border crossing, which remains closed to entry. Meanwhile in Lebanon, migrant domestic workers demonstrated for more rights under the Kefala system this month, on the day of the International Domestic Worker, calling for an end to administrative detention and consequences for exploitative recruitment agencies, amongst other demands. At least 300 Syrians returned from Lebanon's border area, Aarsal, this month, partly attributable to the deteriorating public and State stance towards their presence in the country. Until now this has been punctuated by a series of eviction campaigns by local authorities across rural Lebanon, not to mention scarce employment opportunities, despite evidence that Syria is not yet safe for dignified return.

In Iraq, executions for those convicted of "terrorism" links to the so-called Islamic State were expedited this month, implementing the death penalty for 12 individuals. This denotes potential implications for the at least 1,300 foreign women and children being held in the country for similar alleged convictions. It is reported that children as young as 9 face potential prosecution and are being detained in overcrowded and concerning conditions. Regarding returns to Iraq, almost 600,000 individuals have reportedly returned to areas of origin in 2018 alone, forming part of a total figure of 3.8 million, alongside the 2 million still internally displaced within the country. Nonetheless, a number of obstacles continue to complicate return, slowing the return rate in recent months, including property destruction, scarce livelihood opportunities and a lack of security in areas of origin.

Along the Eastern Mediterranean route to Europe, between 500 and 1,000 Kurdish asylum seekers that fled Moria migrant processing centre to another area of Greece have been threatened with deportation to Turkey by the Greek Migration Ministry. Reports indicate evidence of sectarian violence occurring within camps on the islands, as deteriorating conditions and decreasing prospects for timely resettlement increase tension within camp communities. The group appealed to Greek and EU authorities for protection within a designated camp area, alongside accelerated processing. In Turkey, LGBT asylum seekers demonstrated for increased resettlement opportunities in light of reported homophobic and transphobic attacks, and diminishing opportunities for regular movement to countries that traditionally support these claims such as Canada and the USA.

All 16 EU member states gathered this month to discuss migration policy priorities and the future of the Common European Asylum System as regards mechanisms and funding. The issue of 'regional disembarkation platforms' was proposed as a means to conduct third country processing of asylum claims for individuals identified during Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, despite criticism from key human rights actors and agencies that this approach prioritises border protection over the safety of individuals. Meanwhile, the Aquarius SAR vessel was stranded at sea for nine days with 629 lives on board this month, as disputes over responsibility sharing ensued between Italy and other European States. This event serves as a pointed reminder of the ongoing discord within the EU towards equitable migration and asylum governance, directly impacting upon the right to seek asylum of those crossing the Mediterranean in the meantime.

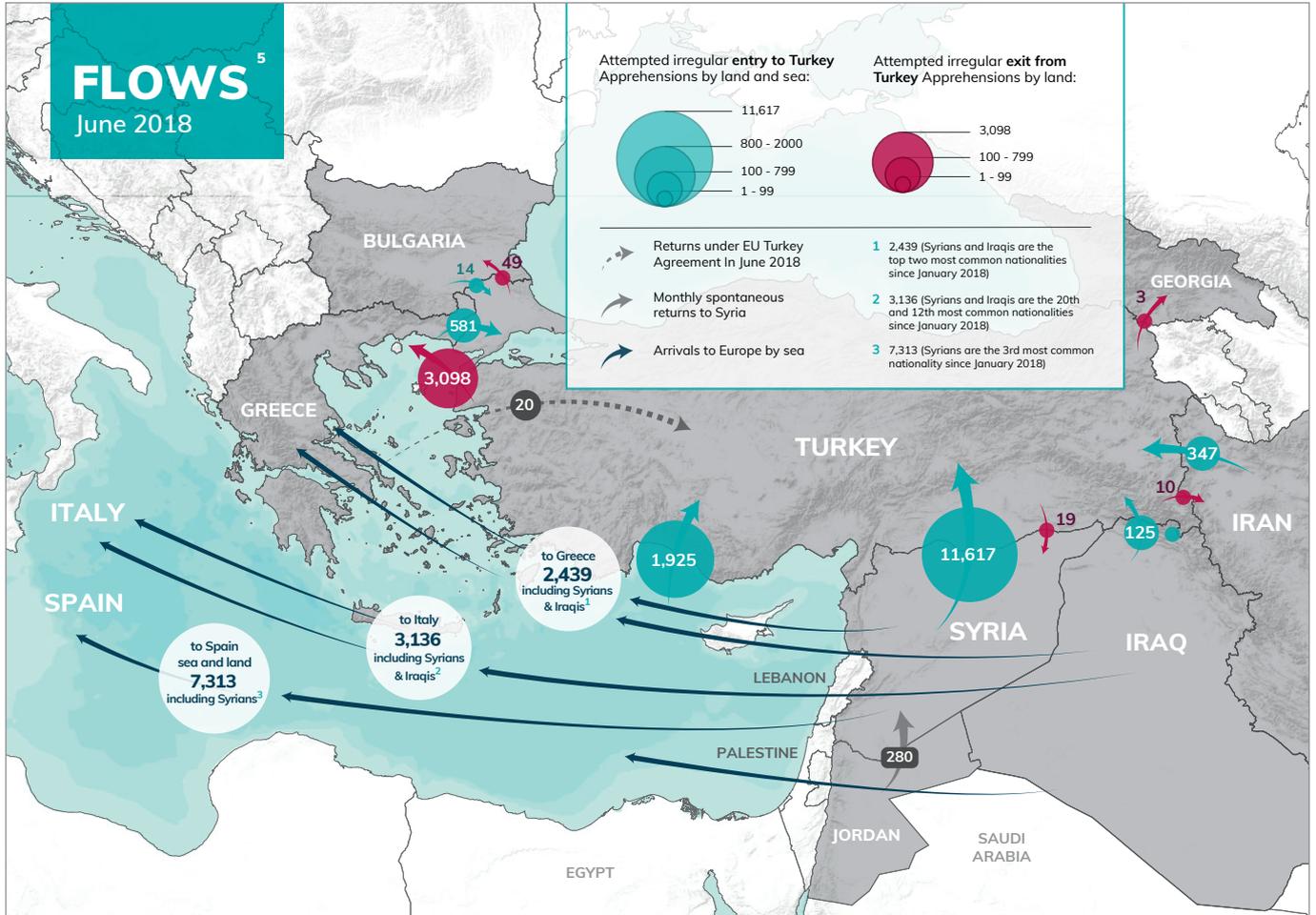


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq <sup>3</sup>	39,195,203	366,568	295,744
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	768,752
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,273,525
Syria <sup>4</sup>	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,288,408
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	–
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

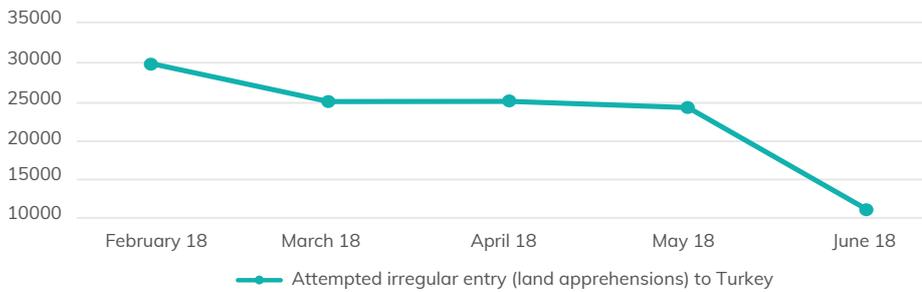
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago Tribune](#); UNRWA [here](#) and [here](#); [USAID](#); and [World Population Review](#)

3 Internally Displaced People (IDPs): 2,300,000

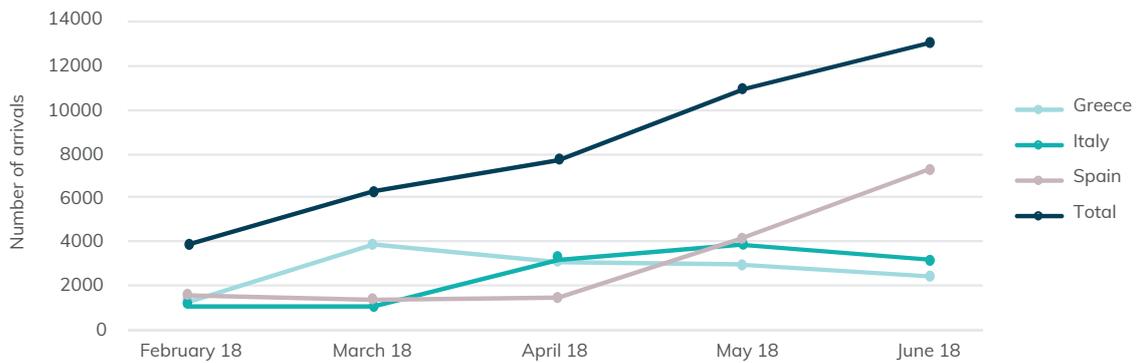
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



Apprehensions on entry to Turkey from Syria



Arrivals by Mediterranean route



5 The sources of data for this map are as follows: [IOM](#); [UNHCR](#); [European Commission](#); [ECRE](#); [Reuters](#); and UNHCR Durable Solutions Working Group (11th June 2018)

# The Middle East Mixed Migration Context

## Jordan



**Population**  
**9.85 million**



**Those Under International Protection**

Syrian 'mandate refugees'  
(June 2018)  
666,596

1.3 million total registered and unregistered Syrians (according to government estimates)

66,873 Iraqis  
11,552 Yemenis  
4,257 Sudanese  
819 Somalis  
1,655 'Others'  
(June 2018)

17,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) (March 2018)



**Number of Foreign Nationals**  
(including those under International Protection)

**Between 2,918,125 - 3,233,553**  
(2015 pop. census / UN est. 2017)

2.1 million Palestinians registered with UNRWA (most with full citizenship)

31,000 Yemenis  
130,000 Iraqis  
6,000+ European nationals  
3,000+ US nationals  
(2015 Census)

c. 500,000-700,000 Syrians (living in Jordan pre-crisis 2011)



**Migrant Workers**

**1.4 million migrant workers**

(There are also 1.4 million Jordanians working in Jordan)

1 million migrant workers don't have permits

Egyptians = two thirds of registered migrant workers (2015). Most common sectors for Egyptians= agriculture, manufacturing, construction and trade

South Asians = 22% of registered migrant workers (2015) Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis mostly work in domestic service or manufacturing

Agriculture sector:  
Only 40% of migrant workers with permits  
Of those with permits, 70% are working illegally in other sectors (2016)

9,448 migrants deported in 2017 for labour documentation violations

## Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

- over 48 nationalities including from Bangladesh; Cambodia; Egypt; Eritrea; the Philippines; Iraq; Kenya; Madagascar; Myanmar; Pakistan; Palestine; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Syria (including Palestinian Refugees from Syria); Yemen; Other

## Access to Services

### Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol, Syrians are recognised upon registration as “mandate refugees”<sup>6</sup> under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the UNHCR and the Government of Jordan in [1998](#).
- **HEALTHCARE:** Syrian refugees can access healthcare at the same cost as “foreigners”, with a 20% subsidy. Those designated as most vulnerable (according to the assessment criteria/without necessary documentation) can also access free healthcare services from UNHCR via the Jordanian Health Aid Society.
- **EDUCATION:** Syrian children can currently access primary and secondary education [without](#) providing documentation, supplemented by UNRWA [schools](#).

### Iraqis/Sudanese/Yemeni/Somali Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As for Syrians, other asylum seekers are officially eligible for mandate refugee assistance upon registration with UNHCR, according to the 1998 MoU with the Government of Jordan.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Upon registration with UNHCR, mandate refugees of other nationalities access [healthcare](#) at foreigner rates, with no other blanket subsidies.
- **EDUCATION:** According to the latest data, a child can enrol at a Jordanian school for [40 JOD](#), the cost of which is provided for Somali and Sudanese refugees in part by UNHCR and International Relief and Development (IRD).

### Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** UNRWA is responsible for the registration of [PRS in Jordan](#). Individuals already registered in Syria will only be recorded, not re-registered in Jordan in order to protect their right to return.

- **HEALTHCARE:** UNRWA are the primary healthcare [provider](#) for PRS in Jordan. They provide reimbursements for selected treatments at private clinics. This is supplemented by 25 UNRWA [centres](#), and four mobile clinics, for other services including immunisation, family planning and antenatal care.
- **EDUCATION:** PRS [reportedly](#) still face some issues in enrolling children in government schools without certificates, alongside the fact that the Syrian curriculum did not offer English classes prior to the conflict, placing PRS students at a disadvantage next to their Jordanian classmates.

### Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** The entry and residency of all other foreign nationals is regulated by [1973 Law No. 24 on Residence and Foreigners' Affairs](#).
- **HEALTHCARE:** [Iraqis](#) with residency permits can access healthcare at the rate of uninsured Jordanians.

## Protection and Vulnerability

Tens of thousands of Syrians remain stranded at ‘the Berm’ (a narrow stretch of territory along Jordan’s northern periphery with Syria), following displacement from various areas of the country that have witnessed fighting between regime and opposition forces. The majority of these have clustered around the Rukban border crossing in an informal settlement that has grown steadily since 2014, with a minimum estimation of [50,000](#) individuals residing in the camp. As the borders remain closed to Syrians following a [security incident](#) at the Rukban border crossing in 2016, Syrians are unable to seek refuge in Jordan.

Sources indicate that the Syrian regime have proposed “[settlement agreements](#)” to opposition factions surrounding the camp, exchanging freedom of movement for control of the area, yet these remain unconfirmed. At the end of June, Syrian regime forces intensified a military campaign to wrest control of Syria’s Southwest through [ground operations](#) and [aerial bombardments](#), displacing another 60,000 to 120,000 people from Daraa to the border areas of Jordan (gathering around the Nasib border crossing) and the Israeli-Occupied Golan Heights and threatening to displace Daraa’s 750,000 residents. This is despite the demarcation of the southwestern area of Syria as a ‘[De-escalation Zone](#)’, endorsed by the United States, Russia and Jordan. Daraa is also one of the only remaining opposition strongholds in Syria and has been the primary governorate of return for Syrians from Jordan, with over 70% of the 16,789 total ‘spontaneous returns’ since January 2016. As of yet, the Jordanian government has made clear their [intention](#) to keep their borders closed to any more refugees.

6 Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Online Research and Teaching Tools (ORTT) (2017) [Glossary of Terms - Mandate Refugees](#)

# Lebanon



**Population**  
**6.08 million**



**Number of Foreign Nationals**

(including those under International Protection)

**1,939,212** (UN est. 2017)<sup>7</sup>

300,000-400,000 Syrians (mostly migrant workers) pre-2011,  
6,000 Iraqis (May 2017)



**Those Under International Protection**

**976,065 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (June 2018)**

174,422 Palestinian refugees (December 2017)

32,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) (December 2016)



**Migrant Workers**

209,674 labour permits issued to migrant workers (2015):

73,419 = to Ethiopians (mostly domestic work)

50,000 = to Bangladeshis (mostly construction)

23,606 = to Filipina women

8,867 = to Sri Lankan women

75% of total for "housekeeping services"

300,000 female housekeepers

Syrians, Palestinians, Africans and Asians mainly work irregularly in agriculture, construction and domestic work. 65% of labour force not paying social security

Over half a million Asian and African migrant workers in Beirut

## Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Cameroon; Egypt; Ethiopia; Eritrea; The Philippines; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Jordan; Kenya; Liberia; Nepal; Palestine; South Sudan; Sudan; Syria; Yemen; Other

<sup>7</sup> It is worth noting that the last overall census in Lebanon was held in 1932 due to the complex political situation.

## Access To Services

### Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for temporary status for asylum seekers via an [MoU](#) signed with UNHCR in 2003. In January 2015, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) restricted entry [requirements](#) for Syrians, introducing a narrow 'humanitarian exception' [category](#) that permits entry for unaccompanied and separated children with legal guardians displaced in Lebanon and individuals with disabilities dependent on others displaced in Lebanon, amongst others.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Subsidised [healthcare](#) is provided by UNHCR through 50 contracted public and private hospitals.
- **EDUCATION:** A limited number of spaces ([200,000](#)) were funded by international donors for Syrian children to go to school from 2015 to 2016, however not all were filled and an estimated [60%](#) of school age Syrians within the country were still [out of school](#) by the end of 2017.

### Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** According to the January 2015 [amendments](#) to entry requirements, Syrians not seeking asylum can now enter the country for the purposes of tourism or transit travel, or by demonstrating property ownership or tenancy, arranged medical care or work. Other nationalities may enter the country via a tourism or work visa, according to differing [requirements](#) outlined by bilateral agreements of states with Lebanon.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Migrant domestic workers can access subsidised treatment through a [range](#) of organisations covering maternal and child health, dental and psychosocial support, however the live-in situations of many individuals in the houses of their employers complicates their access.
- **EDUCATION:** Obligations to provide documentation for children in school enrolment mean many migrant children are out of school in Lebanon. Lower-income migrant children can attend fee-paying public or semi-private school, rendering education [unaffordable](#) for many due to transportation, textbook, stationery and uniform costs.

### Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** New [restrictions](#) were imposed on the entry of PRS into Lebanon in August 2013 including additional screening

measures and exceptional requirements for visa issuance at the border. UNRWA are responsible for their registration and protection.

- **HEALTHCARE:** According to 2017 data, [99%](#) of PRS are reliant on UNRWA health coverage, provided through 27 centres and a number of mobile health clinics across the country.
- **EDUCATION:** UNRWA provides [schooling](#) for PRS children in Lebanon, with 5,251 enrolled by 30 June 2017.

## Protection and Vulnerability

For the ninth consecutive year, migrant domestic workers [demonstrated](#) alongside other individuals and organisations on International Domestic Workers Day in Lebanon this [month](#). Protestors called for the replacement of the Kefala labour sponsorship system, that links the legal status of migrant workers to nationals with scarce formal protections, with a system that allows individuals to resign from a contract and remain legally in the country to seek alternative employment. Other demands included ending administrative detention for migrant domestic workers who experience violence or for having children, closer monitoring and prosecution of exploitative recruitment agencies and ratification of the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers.

Several hundred Syrians [returned](#) from the Aarsal border area of Lebanon at the end of June. The government have emphasised that returns are "voluntary", however conditions for Syrians in Lebanon have been steadily deteriorating in recent months, given continuing evictions by municipal authorities and security forces, a lack of employment opportunities and the threat of arrest for documentation issues. Syrians who return face diverse risks including military conscription by the Assad regime, further displacement due to ongoing conflict and a lack of infrastructure or shelter in their areas of origin. The government have also emphasised that this is the beginning of a wave of returns that will see thousands make the crossing back into Syria, despite evidence of intensifying military operations in areas of the country. This month also saw diplomatic [disputes](#) between UNHCR and the GoL, as the agency came under fire for "hindering returns". The government have halted all registration of UNHCR visas until a "clear and gradual plan for return" materialises.

# Iraq



**Population**  
**39.09 million**



**Those Under International Protection**



**Number of Foreign Nationals**  
(including those under International Protection)

**366,568** (UN est. 2017)

251,157 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (June 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,587 Non-Syrians (as of March 2018)



**Migrant Workers**

18,009 migrant workers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) (2014-15):  
Bangladeshis (19%)  
Nepalese (17.08%)  
Iranians (11.45%)  
Indonesians (10.41%)  
Indians (9.37%)

Georgians (8.33%)  
Turkish (5.62%)  
Philippine (5.20%)  
Syrians, Sri Lankans, Somalis and Pakistanis (under 4%)

140,000 migrant workers without permits (January 2016)

## Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Egypt; The Philippines; Georgia; [India](#); Indonesia; Iran; Jordan; Nepal; Pakistan; Palestine; Sri Lanka; Somalia; Syria; [Turkey](#); Uganda; [Ukraine](#), [Thailand](#); [Turkmenistan](#), Other

## Access to Services

### Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- **HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare access varies across camp versus informal site locations and geographically across Iraq. In the KR-I, IDPs in camps can [reportedly](#) access public hospitals for treatment, for 3000 Iraqi Dinar (roughly EUR 2). This is supplemented by some specialised treatments in camps, and financial support for individual cases deemed eligible.
- **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** In the KR-I, some access to social services grants from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) are [available](#) for certain groups, with reported financial incentives for those who return to their area of origin. Yazidis are exempt from providing documentation when registering due to the nature of their displacement.
- **EDUCATION:** IDP children in the KR-I can attend free public school (however face challenges due to transport, location, overcrowding and language, given education is largely in Kurdish). IDPs are prohibited from entering Kurdish public university. This contrasts with [83%](#) of residents in informal sites across Iraq who indicated children generally had access to formal education (Anbar-56%; Ninewa-60%; Salah Al-Din-67%).

### Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Iraq is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol. Syrian refugees (like all refugees in Iraq) are regulated under the MoMD.
- **HEALTHCARE:** [In camps](#), the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the WHO, provide free primary healthcare to Syrians through four [clinics](#) in Dohuk and Anbar. Assistance is otherwise provided in camps by NGO actors. Syrians outside of camps are also entitled to [access](#) to public healthcare.
- **EDUCATION:** A number of [policies](#) have been adopted by the KR-I Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, to facilitate the entry of Syrians into the higher education system in Iraq, however barriers remain around documentation and administrative requirements.

### Palestinian Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Palestinians who have been in Iraq since the 1948 Nakba remain effectively [stateless](#) in Iraq, never formally

[recognised](#). Despite no formal route to citizenship, Palestinians could claim access to food vouchers, free public/subsidised private housing, education, work and travel documents under Resolution 202 from 2001 which had placed Palestinians on par with Iraqi nationals (excluding citizenship). In December 2017, the government ratified a new [law](#), abolishing Resolution 202.

- **HEALTHCARE:** Under this resolution, Palestinians previously had the right to healthcare access, though treatment and medicine are largely [unaffordable](#).
- **EDUCATION:** Under the same former resolution, supplemented by UNRWA programming, Palestinians were provided access to public education, however the aforementioned recent [developments](#) risk undermining this right.

### Other Migrants

- **LEGAL STATUS/ENTRY:** Other migrants in Iraq can seek residency/labour permits via the Law on Foreigners Residence No. 118 (1978).

## Protection and Vulnerability

The Iraqi government expedited [executions](#) this month of those convicted of “terrorism charges” from areas previously under control of the so-called Islamic State. 12 people on death row were executed, reportedly in response to the kidnapping and murder of eight security force personnel. At least [1,300](#) foreign women and children remain in detention in Iraq for similar charges, after convictions as a result of rushed trials lacking in proper due process, with children as young as nine facing prosecution and detention in deplorable conditions.

Individuals continue to return to areas of origin within Iraq, with the latest figures at [3.8 million](#), further to the 2 million still internally displaced within the country. Almost 600,000 of these have returned in 2018 alone. Nonetheless, the pace compared to previous [months](#) has slowed, due to significant obstacles including destruction of property, lack of job opportunities and a lack of safety in location of origin (26%, 25% and 18% respectively cited by returnees in a recent annual survey).

# Turkey



**Population**  
**81.66 million**



**Those Under International Protection**



**Number of Foreign Nationals**

(including those under International Protection)

**4,881,966** (UN est. 2017)

Most common nationalities with [residence permits](#) (in descending order): Iraq, Syria, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Iran, Georgia and Ukraine

**3.9 million** foreign nationals seeking International Protection (June 2018)

**3,562,523** Syrians with Temporary Protection (June 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International Protection:

Iraq [362,943](#)

Afghanistan [170,583](#)

Iran [36,294](#)

Somalia [3,629](#)

Others [10,888](#) (June 2018)



**Migrant Workers**

Most common [work permit holders](#) by nationality (in descending order): Syria, Georgia, Turkmenistan, China, Ukraine, India, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Iran

[87,000](#) / 100,000 work permits applications by foreign nationals approved (2017)

## Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Afghanistan; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Great Britain; Bulgaria; China; The Netherlands; France; Georgia; Greece; India; Iran; Iraq; Kazakhstan; Libya; Macedonia (FYRM); Morocco; Pakistan; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Syria; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan; [Other](#)

## Access To Services

### Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees/PRS/ Stateless Persons

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As Turkey maintains a geographic [limitation](#) to the 1951 Refugee Convention, reserving protection for those arriving from Europe, it does not recognise Syrians/ PRS/stateless persons as Convention refugees. They are entitled to [Temporary Protection \(TP\) status](#) and according legal residence, access to healthcare, education and other public services.
- **HEALTHCARE:** TP-status holders are [entitled](#) to free public healthcare within their province of registration. Pre-registration, individuals are also entitled to emergency assistance and treatment at primary healthcare institutions.
- **WORK PERMITS:** TP status-holders are [entitled](#) to a six-month work permit post-registration. Exemptions for access to closed sectors are also available within particular provinces, for positions in the seasonal agricultural and husbandry sectors. Applications for work in education, healthcare or research first require “preliminary permission” from respective ministries.
- **EDUCATION:** TP status-holders are [entitled](#) to primary, secondary and higher education in Turkish, alongside Turkish language and vocational courses. Pending registration, children can still access public schooling.

### Other Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Non-Syrians may apply for [International Protection \(IP\) status](#), which grants the right to remain in the country and access to healthcare and education. The three categories of IP are “refugee” (valid for three years), “conditional refugee” and “subsidiary protection” (valid for one year), with differing levels of entitlements. Any individual registered and receiving assistance from UN agencies is [excluded](#) from IP eligibility.
- **HEALTHCARE:** IP status-holders who do not have the means or insurance to finance their own medical treatment are eligible for free public healthcare within their province of registration. As with TP status, IP status-holders can also access emergency care pre-registration.
- **WORK PERMITS:** The work permit [procedure](#) is contingent upon the type of IP status granted to the applicant. “Refugees” and “subsidiary protection” holders can work independently or dependently (linked to a specific position/sector), as soon as they are granted status, whereas “conditional refugees” must wait six months before commencing work. Like TP status-holders, IP status-holders are

prohibited from working in [certain sectors](#) and must also seek additional “preliminary permission” for specialised sectors.

- **EDUCATION:** Like TP status-holders, recipients of IP status can [access](#) primary, secondary and higher education in Turkish, alongside Turkish language and vocational courses. Pre-registration, children can still access public schooling as a “guest student”.

### Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Foreigners may [apply](#) for residency permits to Turkey on the basis of family reunification via a “[family residence permit](#)”, education, [property ownership](#), [work](#) or healthcare.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Residence permit holders that can prove a lack of financial means or health insurance coverage in other states can [access](#) universal healthcare coverage after one year of residency. Registrants must pay a monthly premium to access services on par with Turkish nationals.
- **EDUCATION:** Students can apply for a short-term residency permit as stipulated by Article 31 of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) (No.6458). Students with a residence permit can also apply for a work permit, following completion of their first year of study.

## Protection and Vulnerability

Between [500](#) and 1,000 Kurdish asylum seekers from Syria that left the migrant processing centre on the Greek island of Moria, following reportedly widespread and coordinated [attacks](#) at the beginning of June, have been [threatened](#) with deportation to Turkey by the Greek Migration Ministry, unless they return. The vulnerable group released a [statement](#) to the Greek and European authorities demanding their rights and protection within a designated camp area, alongside accelerated asylum processing.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers in Turkey [demonstrated](#) at the EU-funded Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants this month, protesting a lack of options for resettlement to safe third countries through official channels. The situation for the estimated 700 to 800 LGBT asylum seekers in Turkey similarly appears untenable, in light of reported homophobic and transphobic attacks, yet the two countries that traditionally resettle claims of this nature (Canada and the USA) are facing oversubscription of applications and have imposed [policy restrictions](#) on asylum claims from particular countries.

# Syria



## Population

**18.27 million** (estimate)  
pre-war population 22 million



## Number of Foreign Nationals

(including those under International Protection)

**1,013,818** (UN est. 2017)



## Those Under International Protection

Pre-civil war, 526,744 registered Palestinians (2011). 438,000 Palestinians remain (2018)

12,276 Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh governorate (May 2018)

24,000 other Iraqis (May 2018)

3,200 'Persons of Concern' of other nationalities

Analysis of trends within Syria falls outside of the scope of this monthly summary. We recommend to refer to partner initiatives including [REACH Syria](#) assessments, [ACAPS Country analysis](#) and the Durable Solutions Platform [mailing list](#) for relevant resources.

# The Mixed Migration Policy Landscape And Updates

## National Migration Governance Frameworks

<p><b>Iraq</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law on Foreigners Residence No. 118 (1978):</b> Establishes who is considered to be a foreigner as well as regulations for obtaining visas and entering and exiting the <a href="#">country</a>. The law refers to “refugees” in Article 6 but does not define them as a separate category.</li> <li>• <b>National Policy on Displacement (2008):</b> Defines the rights of IDPs and returnees in Iraq. Never passed into law</li> <li>• <b>Political Refugee Law (1971):</b> Establishes <a href="#">benefits</a> including the right to work as well as the same health and educational benefits as received by Iraqi citizens, however this law does not apply to refugees who have fled for any other reason.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jordan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law No. 24 of 1973 on Residence and Foreigners’ Affairs:</b> <a href="#">Defines</a> entry, registration, residence, and penalties and violations for foreigners. Stipulates that anyone entering the country in cases of force majeure (including those intending to claim asylum) should report to relevant authorities within 48 hours.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding between the H. K. of Jordan and the UNHCR (1998):</b> As Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol, asylum seekers are recognised upon registration as “mandate refugees” under a <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a> (MoU) signed in 1998.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lebanon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Order No. 319 Regulating the Status of Foreign Nationals in Lebanon:</b> <a href="#">Defines</a> who is considered a foreign national and the five categories of status available to them.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding: Lebanon and UNHCR (2003):</b> Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for Temporary Status for asylum seekers via an <a href="#">MoU</a> signed with UNHCR in 2003. (Restrictions were applied in 2015).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Turkey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law on Foreigners and International Protection (April 2014):</b> A legal <a href="#">framework</a> outlining obligations towards those in need of International Protection laid out in binding domestic law. Three types of International Protection provided: refugee, conditional refugee and subsidiary protection. This <a href="#">law</a> also determines rules pertaining to foreigners, including those for residence permits. The following categories of residency permits for foreign nationals staying over 90 days are issued: short-term; family; student; long-term; humanitarian and victim of human trafficking (and valid working permissions are treated as residence permits). In addition, this law constitutes the legal basis for the Temporary Protection Regulation.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Turkey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Temporary Protection Regulation (October 2014):</b> For those seeking International Protection from Syria, including Stateless Palestinians originating from Syria (and potentially other 'large influx' situations in the future). <a href="#">Grants</a> right to legal stay and some access to basic rights and services,</li> <li>• <b>The 1951 Refugee Convention:</b> This is applied with a geographical limitation, which restricts the granting of refugee status to those fleeing as a consequence of events in Europe. A separate reservation determines that it cannot be construed as providing more rights to refugees than Turkish citizens.</li> <li>• <b>Open door policy between Syria and Turkey (2011-2015):</b> Syrians who crossed Turkish border from Syria were granted Temporary Protection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Syria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law No. 2 -2014 Entry, Exit and Residence of Foreigners in Syria:</b> This law provides the relevant procedures to enter and exit Syria and obtain residence documents for those seeking International Protection and other foreigners. It also defines fines and other penalties in case of irregular entry, exit and irregular residence.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding:</b> Syria and UNHCR (1991 and 2008): Syria is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for temporary status for asylum seekers via two MoUs signed with UNHCR in 1991.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional</b> (applies to GCC countries, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The <a href="#">Kefala</a> system:</b> dictates the entry and ongoing legal residency of migrant workers in Jordan (based on the bylaws/regulations issued according to Labour Law no. 8 of 1996), Lebanon, Iraq and the GCC countries. The legal status of labour migrants in these states is linked to an employer-sponsor who maintains effective legal responsibility for the individual they are sponsoring while they are in the country's territory.</li> </ul>

**A note on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (2003).** Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and the countries of the GCC - are all non-signatories. Turkey signed in 1999 and ratified in 2004 and Syria ratified in 2005.

**A note on the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.** Of the countries of focus in the Middle East region, Turkey and Iran are the only signatories to the Convention and Protocol, however Turkey applies a geographical restriction as detailed under the Middle East Mixed Migration country section, and Iran also maintains reservations to the Convention.

# Policy updates this month

## 16 member states meet for migration summit in Brussels

At the end of the month, EU States came to [conclusions](#) around further reducing migration flows into the EU. One element proposed is the creation of '[regional disembarkation platforms](#)' which would enable third country processing for those picked up in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. IOM and UNHCR support is requested, in response to which the agencies released a [statement](#) declaring that human rights and safety need to be the first priority. The proposal has received [criticism](#) from several countries and human rights groups, and as of yet, no countries outside of the EU have agreed to participate in the scheme. There is also a proposition for '[controlled facilities](#)' in EU member states for processing, with a solidarity mechanism for taking in those who are assessed to be in need of international protection.

Other elements include an agreement on how to finance the additional [€3 billion](#) for the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey as part of the EU-Turkey Deal. This will be released over a two-year period. The deadline for a reform of the Dublin Regulation has been pushed back to the end of the year as States continue to struggle to reach an agreement.

## Internal EU politics over the arrival of migrants impacts on Search and Rescue in the Mediterranean

The NGO ship '[Aquarius](#)' spent 9 days stranded at sea with 629 lives on board this month as Italy refused permission to dock and other European States

negotiated over its arrival. Eventually the ship was given permission to dock in Spain, having been turned away by Italy and Malta. UN Refugee Chief, Filippo Grandi, condemned the handling of the situation as "[shameful](#)", calling for a reform of the EU asylum system and greater responsibility sharing between states. Later in the month, another NGO ship, '[Lifeline](#)' spent five days stranded at sea until Malta allowed entry with 8 European states agreeing to take in those on board. The ship may now be impounded and investigations held against its crew.

The conflict over allowing NGO vessels to dock came ahead of an EU migration summit (see above) as European states continue to deliberate over management of migration into the block. Italy's new government – which campaigned on the migration issue – [declared victory](#) after Spain took in the Aquarius. Italy has been one of the main frontline states in receiving migrants, and this appears to be part of a strategy to force other European countries to take in more. There has been a simultaneous crackdown on NGOs carrying out search and rescue over recent months, hampering their operations and preferencing Libyan interceptions, in order to keep migrants from reaching European shores.

## 'Stop Soros' legislation package and constitutional amendments passed in Hungary

[The legislation](#) severely restricts the activities of civil society in the name of combating "illegal immigration". Only 342 people were registered as asylum seekers in the country in the first four months of this year. The legislation was passed amid criticisms from human rights groups, who state that the measures contravene European law.

# Other News

## 7% of Syrian child refugees now working in Lebanon; up from 4% in 2016

More and more children are reportedly having to [work](#) as poverty increases among Lebanon's refugee population. Child labour exposes children to harassment and abuse.

## UNHCR staff denied visas by Lebanon in dispute over returns to Syria

Lebanon announced that it would not issue [residency permits](#) for international staff of UNHCR this month, in part of a conflict over the return of Syrian refugees. The Government of Lebanon has accused UNHCR of intimidating people not to return. UNHCR denies the accusation, saying that it supports return when it is safe to do so.

## 160,000 people displaced in southern Syria 17-29 June

As the [government offensive](#) continues around Daraa, thousands of Syrians have flocked to the Jordanian and Israeli borders.

## Tukey suspends bilateral readmission agreement with Greece

Following the release of four Turkish soldiers from prison who had fled to Greece following the 2016 coup, Turkey took the [decision](#) to halt migrant admission under the Bilateral Readmission Agreement. A decision on their asylum applications is still being processed. Under the [2001 deal](#), 1,209 foreign nationals have been deported to Turkey from Greece in the last two years.

## Violence in Gaza

The UN Security Council tabled a [resolution](#) condemning Israel's use of force against Palestinian civilians this month, which was vetoed by the US. At least 116 Palestinians had been killed (to 1 June) by Israeli forces in Gaza border protests since 30 March.

## Applications for asylum across the EU fell in 2017

Applications fell by [44%](#) compared to the previous year, found EASO. The top three most common countries of origin of those applying were Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

## New Italian leadership takes an even stronger anti-migration stance

The new Italian government is set to take a [tough stance](#) on migration, with Interior Minister Matteo Salvini declaring that one of the new government's top priorities towards migrants is to "send them home".

## European Commission proposes to almost triple funding for migration and border management in 2021-27 budget

The budget is to stand at [\\$5 billion](#). Its focus is on the strengthening of the EU's external borders, with the European Border and Coast Guard agency to have a new standing corps of 10,000 border guards.

## Meeting in Bosnia to discuss managing migration on the new route through Western Balkans

[5,500](#) migrants have passed through Bosnia so far this year, seeking alternative routes as European countries become more heavily guarded. The European Commission pledged €1.5 million in humanitarian aid to Bosnia this month, bringing its total funding for the Western Balkans to €30.5 million.

# New Research and Reports

The Migration Policy Institute published a [report](#) this month on the EU response to recent migration challenges, in the context of "crisis". The paper provides an overview of the European Union response to the situation thus far, its strengths and weaknesses in relation to early response, coordination, accountability and resource allocation. It also provides recommendations for future migration response challenges, including improving institutional preparedness through EU-wide contingency planning and realistic operational strategies for frontline migrant-receiving states.

This month, the Centre for Global Development published a blog on the final negotiations to draft the [Global Compact](#). The post details upcoming challenges to be faced in the final drafting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including red line issues for states including acceptance of returned migrants by origin states, firewalls for irregular migrants and increased channels for regular migration (with a particular focus on labour migration).

The Centre for European Policy Studies released a [Policy Insight report](#) that comments on recent developments within the European migration policy sphere towards reforming the Common European Asylum System. The brief provides suggestions for a "new EU asylum agency" with a search and rescue mandate fully

integrated into European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) operations and independent funding and personnel permanently positioned in each member state. It proposes that this new European Border and Asylum Service would bring together Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office into one body, granting them centralised decision-making powers in close cooperation with national asylum authorities, as a potential solution to the EU's current crisis of solidarity.

The first Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, produced by UNODC this month, shows that smuggling occurred in all regions of the world and generated an income of up to [US \\$7 billion](#). The figure is equivalent to what the US or the EU spent on humanitarian aid in 2016. At least 2.5 million migrants were reportedly smuggled during this period. Demand for smugglers is particularly high for refugees who lack other means to flee to a safe destination.

The Afghanistan Analysts Network published a [briefing](#) this month on Turkey's deportation of Afghans in response to a reported 400% increase in arrivals in the first quarter of 2018. The analysis focuses on Erzurum, a city in eastern Anatolia, as a key transit point for migrant arrivals and now the site of detention and deportation. The dispatch also provides analysis of Turkey's recent reported deportation campaign at the national level and the possible motivations behind it.

For more information visit:  
[mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org)

