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Jordan: Access to public schools or to any other form of public education in Jordan for children of Palestinian refugees from the Gaza Strip who have a refugee passport (2005 - May 2007)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Specific information on access to public schools or to any other form of public education in Jordan for children of Palestinian refugees from the Gaza Strip who have a refugee passport could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response. However, the information below may be of interest.

In October 2006, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) published the results of a survey of "special hardship case families" in Palestinian refugee populations living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan (UN Oct. 2006, 10, 20). According to the report, UNRWA schools were more accessible to those living in a refugee camp; however, refugees living outside the camps had better access to elementary, preparatory and secondary schools (*ibid.*, 83).

The head of UNRWA's Cairo office told the *Daily Star Egypt*, an English-language daily in the city of Gizeh, that Palestinian refugees from Gaza living in Jordan "face severe discrimination" that limits their access to education, especially university education (5 Nov. 2006). Freedom House reports that Jordanians of Palestinian descent face discrimination in terms of admission to university (7 Sept. 2006).

According to a UN document published at the start of 2005, UNRWA education facilities were overcrowded and under-equipped (28 Feb. 2005). As of 31 December 2006, there were approximately 1.86 million Palestinian refugees registered and receiving assistance from UNRWA (US 6 Mar. 2007).

According to a September 2006 article in *Forced Migration Review* (FMR), in Jordan, UNRWA was providing Palestinian refugees with elementary and preparatory, but not secondary education (4 Sept. 2006).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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Freedom House. 7 September 2006. "Jordan." *Freedom in the World 2006*. <<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2006&country=6989>> [Accessed 17 May 2007]

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_____. 28 February 2005. UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). "UNRWA Presents \$1.1 Billion Plan to Donors." (Press Release No. HQ/G/05/2005) <<http://www.un.org/unrwa/news/releases/pr-2005/hqg05-05.pdf>> [Accessed 13 June 2007]

United States (US). 6 March 2007. Department of State. "Jordan." *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006*. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78855.htm>> [Accessed 3 May 2007]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral Sources: The BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Canada and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) did not respond within the time constraints of this Response.

Internet sites, including: BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Canadian Embassy in Jordan, Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Canada, Factiva, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States (US) Department of State.

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