

SPECIAL REPORT FROM DEFEND JERUSALEM 2025

Why Neighboring Arab States
Must Welcome Palestinians
& End the Gaza Crisis



Introduction

For decades, the Gaza Strip has been a flashpoint of suffering, conflict, and political turmoil. The world has watched as generations of Palestinians have endured hardships, blockades, and cycles of violence, with no viable solution in sight. The international community, especially the United States, has poured billions in aid into the region, yet the crisis persists. Yet, no Arab state has ever stepped in to assist their Arab brethren nor provide any real financial assistance. Instead, the Arab recite empty vows of solidarity with the Gazans while the perpetuate and encourage the Strip to remain a terrorist enclave that threatens the Jewish State. The refusal of the Sunni regimes in the region to address the root causes of Gaza's plight has allowed Islamic terrorist elements to thrive while innocent civilians continue to suffer. Gaza remains a dangerous thorn in the side of all who actually seek stability in the Middle East.

The solution, however, is clear and long overdue: neighboring Arab states such as Jordan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar must step up and take in Palestinian refugees, offering them a path to security, prosperity, and dignity. Rather than expecting Western nations to shoulder the burden alone, these wealthy and territorially vast Arab countries have both a moral and practical responsibility to act decisively. It is time for President Trump to assert powerful leverage on these reluctant regimes to finally take a constructive role in solving the problem rather than simply accepting American aid while ignoring their responsibilities.

President Trump has made his stance on this issue clear: *"We have given these nations billions of dollars, and it's time they step up and do their part. They can take in refugees, they have the land, they have the money, and they need to show real leadership."*



The Failures of Arab States to Assist Their Palestinian Brethren

While Arab nations routinely champion the Palestinian cause in speeches and international forums, their actions tell a different story. In reality they provide no practical assistance or solutions. Despite their shared language, culture, and religious ties with Palestinians, these states have done little to integrate refugees, preferring instead to keep them in perpetual limbo to use as political pawns. Their inaction fans the flame of Islamic terror in Gaza.



Jordan

Jordan is home to a significant Palestinian population and has absorbed some refugees, but it continues to limit their rights. The government resists taking in more Palestinians due to demographic and political concerns, fearing an upset to the balance of power within the kingdom. The reluctance of Jordan to offer full citizenship or rights to Palestinians living within its borders contradicts its public stance of solidarity.

Egypt

Egypt shares a direct border with Gaza and has a long history of controlling movement in and out of the Strip. Yet, it has frequently sealed its Rafah crossing, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis rather than providing relief. While Egypt claims security concerns over Hamas, its collective punishment approach harms millions of innocent civilians and effectively worsens conditions in Gaza.

The Gulf States (UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait)

The Gulf States possess immense wealth, vast lands, and modern infrastructure that could easily accommodate displaced Palestinians. Yet, they have historically refused to grant full citizenship or residency rights to Palestinian refugees. These oil-rich nations continue to demand that the U.S. and Europe solve the Palestinian issue while accepting billions in foreign aid and military assistance from the West.

Despite their reluctance to assist in meaningful ways, these same nations claim to be steadfast allies of the Palestinian cause. This hypocrisy must end. As President Trump has said, *"The era of freeloading is over. These nations must contribute, not just take."*

Egypt: A Key Culprit in Gaza's Humanitarian Crisis

One of the biggest enablers of Gaza's suffering is Egypt. Though it shares a border with Gaza and could provide humanitarian relief, Egypt has instead kept the border sealed, contributing directly to the crisis.

- **Rafah Crossing Closure:** Egypt frequently blocks the movement of food, medicine, and essential supplies from entering Gaza through Rafah, the only border crossing not controlled by Israel.
- **Political Motivations Over Humanitarian Concerns:** Egypt often justifies its actions by citing security concerns over Hamas, yet its policies collectively punish millions of innocent civilians.
- **Egypt's Coordination with Israel:** While loudly criticizing Israel for Gaza's condition, Egypt has cooperated in maintaining Gaza's isolation, ensuring that pressure remains on Hamas while refusing to take in Palestinians fleeing war.

If Egypt were to open its border, a significant portion of Gaza's humanitarian suffering could be alleviated overnight. Yet, Cairo's unwillingness to shoulder any responsibility leaves Gazans trapped in an endless cycle of deprivation.

As President Trump put it, "If Egypt really cares about Palestinians, they would let them in. But they won't, because this has never been about helping people, it's about politics."

The Palestinian Threat: A History of Destabilization in Arab Nations

One of the unspoken reasons why Arab states refuse to take in Palestinian refugees is the violent history of Palestinian factions destabilizing host countries. Jordan and Lebanon provide stark examples of how allowing large numbers of Palestinian refugees can lead to internal chaos and civil war.

Jordan (Black September, 1970)

The influx of Palestinian refugees and the rise of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Jordan led to a violent conflict between the Jordanian government and Palestinian militants. The PLO sought to establish a state within a state, challenging Jordanian sovereignty. In response, King Hussein launched a brutal crackdown, forcing the PLO to flee to Lebanon.

Lebanon (Lebanese Civil War, 1975-1990)

Palestinian factions played a central role in igniting Lebanon's devastating 15-year civil war. The presence of heavily armed Palestinian groups exacerbated sectarian tensions, leading to widespread violence and instability that crippled the country for decades.

Given this historical precedent, it is understandable why Arab nations hesitate to integrate Palestinian refugees, fearing the rise of armed factions within their borders. However, rather than using these concerns as an excuse for inaction, Arab states must work to develop proper mechanisms for resettlement that ensure integration without security risks.



Additional Locations for Palestinian Resettlement

Beyond neighboring Arab states, there are other locations that could provide refuge and opportunity for displaced Palestinians. Countries with large uninhabited lands and economic resources should also be considered as part of a broader international solution.



Saudi Arabia

As the largest country in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has vast, underpopulated areas, particularly in its northern and western regions. With its immense oil wealth and investment in mega-projects like NEOM, the Kingdom could develop new communities for Palestinian refugees, providing them with jobs and stability while helping the Saudi economy grow.

North Africa (Libya and Algeria)

Libya and Algeria both have extensive landmasses with relatively low population densities. Libya, once a major hub for foreign workers, has the potential to absorb refugees as it stabilizes, while Algeria's energy wealth could support a sustainable resettlement program. With proper international investment and oversight, these nations could offer a long-term solution for Palestinian refugees while fostering economic growth.

Conclusion: A Moral and Strategic Imperative

For too long, the Palestinian refugee crisis has been cynically exploited for political gain while genuine solutions have been ignored. Arab nations must finally assume responsibility for their Palestinian brethren, offering them a dignified future rather than perpetuating their suffering for propaganda purposes. Egypt, in particular, must open its borders and allow humanitarian relief to flow freely into Gaza.

The United States, under strong leadership like President Trump's, has the power to demand real action. By applying pressure on these wealthy and capable Arab nations, America can ensure that Palestinian refugees are given the opportunities and security they deserve.

As Trump has declared, "We've done enough. It's time for these nations to take responsibility. We will not bankroll inaction any longer."



It is time to move beyond empty rhetoric and symbolic gestures. The burden of the Palestinian issue must be shared regionally, not solely by Israel, the U.S., or the West. The future of peace in the Middle East depends on bold, decisive action. The world can no longer allow Arab states to evade their moral and practical responsibilities. The time for action is now. The time for Gaza's fellow Islamic communities to take real measures to relocate these civilians is now. The Sunni states cannot continue to be part of the problem, they need to be part of the solution.

