Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR)

Monthly Report — Field Activity Affecting Refugees

Reporting month: August 2026 · Published: 2 September 2026

Snapshot of the Month

August 2026 saw an escalation in collective measures against Syrian refugees: a same-day raid and deportation in Bar Elias (at least 12 names documented), a widely deployed "security day" of checkpoints across Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and new municipal restrictions on movement in Deir al-Ahmar. In parallel, the organized-return track expanded (the 17th batch departed, and UNHCR and IOM launched a program), amid reports of a broad review of entry-ban records.

+12	~dozens	17th	+200
Documented cases (Bar Elias)	Detained in raids (estimate)	Return-program batch departed	Families seeking return (Arsal)

Person counts are shown only where available. A "~" denotes an unconfirmed estimate; confirmed figures are never merged with estimates without a marker.

Forced / Collective Deportation

Camp raid and collective deportation in Bar Elias

Bekaa – Zahle · 20 Aug 2026

Camps housing Syrian refugees in the town of Bar Elias (Zahle district) were raided, and the operation led to the arrest of dozens of Syrian refugees. The team documented the names of at least 12 men, and two motorcycles and a car were seized. According to available information, the detainees were transferred to the Chtaura branch of Lebanese Army Intelligence before being deported to Syria the same day.

Arrests and Raids

Camp raid and arrests in Bar Elias

Bekaa – Zahle · 20 Aug 2026

A raid on refugee camps and the arrest of dozens of people on grounds of expired residency or irregular entry.

"Security day" and deployment of checkpoints

Beirut & Mount Lebanon · 20 Aug 2026

Reports of a "security day" involving a wide deployment of Army and Internal Security Forces checkpoints, with dozens of Syrians and Lebanese reportedly arrested across different areas. No information was available on numbers or subsequent fate.

Demolition and Eviction of Camps

No documented incidents this month.

Incitement and Mobilization Campaigns Against Refugees

Expanded media coverage of the refugee file

National · 1 Aug 2026

Media outlets — including the newspaper An-Nahar — revived the Syrian refugee file through a special report addressing numbers, distribution, and the future of the refugee presence in Lebanon.

Circulation of torture clips and an army statement

National · 9–10 Aug 2026

Wide circulation of clips said to possibly document the torture of refugees and detainees by security personnel in previous years, which sparked controversy. The Army Command issued a statement affirming that the clips were old and that measures had been taken previously, warning that recirculating them was intended to incite.

Bassil's statements on the Syrian file

National · 11 Aug 2026

Free Patriotic Movement leader Gebran Bassil made statements in which he considered the war in Syria to be over, criticizing the government's handling of the file and its relationship with the Syrian authorities.

Other Collective Measures (movement restrictions, returns, closures…)

Launch of the organized-return program

National · 10 Aug 2026

UNHCR and IOM announced the launch of an organized voluntary-return program from Lebanon to Syria, including financial support and arranged transport.

Municipal restrictions on foreign workers' movement

Bekaa – Deir al-Ahmar · 20 Aug 2026

The Union of Deir al-Ahmar Municipalities announced measures to regulate the movement of foreign workers and their vehicles, including settling vehicle status within a deadline and restrictions on travel times and between camps and towns, with the threat of impoundment and detention.

Review of entry-ban records

National · 19 Aug 2026

Reports that General Security is studying a review of the hundreds of thousands of entry-ban records issued against Syrians who entered irregularly or did not renew their residency.

Appeals to facilitate return and open the Zamrani crossing

Bekaa – Arsal · 11 Aug 2026

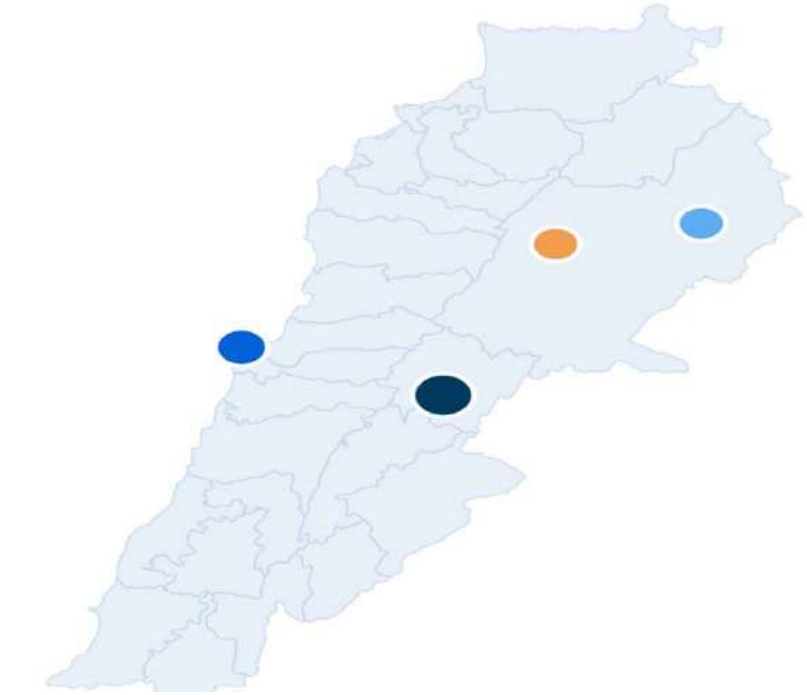
Appeals from more than 200 Syrian families in the Arsal camps to facilitate their return to their areas and to open the Zamrani crossing.

Departure of the 17th batch under the return program

National · 27 Aug 2026

Syrian families departed as part of the 17th batch of the return program overseen by UNHCR.

Geographic Distribution



Methodology and Disclaimer

This report is based on information documented by the Access Center for Human Rights team through direct field monitoring, the follow-up of individual and collective cases, and the review of reliable open sources, with facts verified as far as possible at the time of documentation. Incidents are classified by their nature (arrest, deportation, incitement, collective measures, etc.), with unconfirmed information flagged as such. The inclusion of any incident does not constitute a final legal determination of responsibility, but rather a presentation of the facts as documented during the covered period.

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Centre d'accès pour les droits de l'homme

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