

Sunday, 31 March 2013

## Saudi Arabia sends tons of aid to Syrian refugees



Saudi Arabia has sent 80 thousand tons of aid to Syrian refugees near the Turkish borders in a new campaign it called "To meet the needs," Al Arabiya reported Saturday.

The offered aid included a variety of food items, electricity generators given the summer season is coming, and other necessary kitchen equipment.

The aid cargo made its way first from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and later from the port city of Jeddah near the Red Sea. It then headed to Turkey through the Mediterranean.

"It is not our first campaign to help Syrian refugees. We are continuously working on projects to assist Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon," Buraima Al-Tuaifi, field coordinator of the campaign, told Al Arabiya.

The campaign itself was supervised and headed by Prince Turki bin Talal bin Abdulaziz.

Organizers of the campaign, who also worked in cooperation with aid groups inside Syria, said the assistance was received by refugees in the Atmeh camp near the Turkish border.

Meanwhile, U.N. Refugee Agency chief Antonio Guterres warned that the current level of Syrian refugees could go up to two or three times the current level by the end of 2013 if the present flow continues.

An estimated 70,000 people have been killed since the start of the two-year conflict.

The U.N. refugee body, UNHCR, says more than 400,000 Syrian refugees - nearly half the total - have fled Syria since Jan. 1, 2013.

Around half the refugees are children, most of them under 11.