

World's largest refugee camp must stay open

11th February, 2017



The High Court in Kenya has blocked the Kenyan government's attempt to close the largest refugee camp in the world. The Dadaab camp houses 330,000 refugees. Kenya's

government wanted to close it and send 260,000 Somali refugees back to Somalia. The High Court decided it was wrong to send the Somalis back just because of their nationality. A judge said: "The government's decision specifically targeting Somali refugees is an act of group persecution." He added that it was discrimination. Kenya's government said it wanted to close the camp because of security worries. It said that terrorist attacks in Kenya by the Somalia-based al-Shabab group were planned in the camp.

Dadaab was set up in 1992 to cope with people fleeing the civil war in Somalia. It is made up of five giant camps and is run by the United Nations. When Kenya's government said it would close the camp, human rights groups around the world became worried. They feared that sending back so many refugees to Somalia would create another humanitarian crisis. The human rights group Amnesty International welcomed the High Court's decision. It said Kenya had a duty to protect refugees from harm. It said: "Today is a historic day for more than a quarter of a million refugees who were at risk of being forcefully returned to Somalia, where they would have been at serious risk of human rights abuses."

Sources: *BBC.com / africanews.com / usatoday.com*

Writing

Why are there refugees in the world? What can we do to help them?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

blocked / attempt / refugee / wrong / nationality / targeting / discrimination / security / cope / civil war / human rights / humanitarian / welcomed / historic / risk / abuses

True / False

- a) The Low Court in Kenya blocked an attempt to close a refugee camp. T / F
- b) The camp has 330,000 people living there. T / F
- c) A court said the Kenyan government should not target Somalis. T / F
- d) Kenya's government said a group at the camp planned terror attacks. T / F
- e) The camp first opened in 2002. T / F
- f) A human rights group was worried about a humanitarian crisis. T / F
- g) Amnesty International was not happy with the court's decision. T / F
- h) Amnesty International said the decision marked a "historians' day". T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. blocked | a. shut down |
| 2. houses | b. emergency |
| 3. just | c. drawn up |
| 4. close | d. managed |
| 5. planned | e. simply |
| 6. cope with | f. misuses |
| 7. run | g. stopped |
| 8. crisis | h. accepted |
| 9. welcomed | i. handle |
| 10. abuses | j. accommodates |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What is life like for a refugee?
- b) What needs to happen in the world for there to be no refugees?
- c) What do you know about the civil war in Somalia?
- d) What do you think of human rights groups?
- e) Why did Amnesty International say it was a 'historic day'?
- f) What other news do you know of about refugees?
- g) What advice do you have for refugees?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the judge?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The High | a. the United Nations |
| 2. blocked the Kenyan government's | b. worries |
| 3. The Dadaab camp houses | c. war in Somalia |
| 4. specifically targeting | d. attempt |
| 5. because of security | e. rights abuses |
| 6. people fleeing the civil | f. Court in Kenya |
| 7. run by | g. from harm |
| 8. create another humanitarian | h. 330,000 refugees |
| 9. a duty to protect refugees | i. crisis |
| 10. serious risk of human | j. Somali refugees |

Discussion – Student B

- Why are there so many refugees in the world?
- What can we do to help refugees?
- Why do some rich countries not want to accept refugees?
- What is a refugee?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the High Court's decision?
- How big is the link between refugees and terrorism?
- What is your country's policy towards refugees?

Spelling

- eptmtat to close the largest refugee camp
- uhoses 330,000 refugees
- because of their tlitoiaynna
- The government's iecnoids
- because of rieuctys worries
- rtoteirrs attacks
- cope with people fleeing the lvcii war
- human ghrist groups
- create another humanitarian csrsii
- a duty to etocptr refugees from harm
- a qarteru of a million refugees
- they would have been at osreius risk

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. e	4. a	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Refugees' Own Nation

You think the refugees' own nation is the best to help refugees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these to help refugees (and why): the USA, the United Nations or world charities.

Role B – The USA

You think the USA is the best to help refugees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these to help refugees (and why): the refugees' own nation, the United Nations or world charities.

Role C – The United Nations

You think the United Nations is the best to help refugees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these to help refugees (and why): the USA, the refugees' own nation or world charities.

Role D – World Charities

You think world charities are the best to help refugees. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these to help refugees (and why): the USA, the United Nations or the refugees' own nation.

Speaking – Help

Rank these with your partner. Put those who should help refugees most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Big companies | • Refugees' own nation |
| • Ordinary people | • Neighbours |
| • Other _____ | • The USA |
| • United Nations | • World charities |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.