



No Eid joy for Syrian children

As Muslims across the world enjoyed their Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, thousands of Syrian children spent their Eid away from their homes and loved ones.

Before the current violence in Syria, Eid was a time of celebration for children as with anywhere else in the world. Children would wear new clothes, receive Eid money, buy sweets and chocolates and visit relatives. But this year was the third Eid that many Syrian children were deprived of any delight in celebrating even the basic joys of Eid.

Islamic Relief spoke to parents and children who fled to Lebanon to escape the violence, and here are some of their stories:





8-year-old, Ritta, Homs

“I wish we could spend Eid in Syria”

“Back in Syria, in Eid time, I used to hang out with my friends. We would all receive ‘Eidiye’ (Eid money) and buy lots of candy floss, chocolates and sweets. We would then go to visit all of our relatives- aunts, uncles and cousins. We would play with our cousins and show off our new clothes. I wish we could spend Eid in Syria.

Eid with nothing is not nice. I didn’t get new clothes this year and I have no idea where my friends are. Last Eid we were here too but I just stayed home all day. Only my dad gives me ‘Eidiye’ now and I can’t buy what I want with it. I wish we could go back to how it was before.”



5-year-old, Lynn

“Here in Lebanon, there is no Eid”

“I love Eid time. I like to go sliding, swinging and eat lots of sweets. Here in Lebanon, there is no Eid. Last Eid, we stayed home we did not go anywhere! I want to buy a new doll. I couldn’t bring anything from Syria. I had to leave my doll in Syria. It was so beautiful; it even had a baby milk bottle.”

Lynn’s mom told Islamic Relief: “Lynn cried a lot last Eid because she wanted new clothes and wanted to go swinging but we couldn’t afford it. We don’t have anything. We can’t even buy the kids any new clothes.”



11- year- old, Abderra Abderraham, with his little brother Ammar,

“It is not Eid for us Syrians- Our home was destroyed and people are being killed!”

“It is not Eid for us over here. Eid is much better in Syria. In Syria, I visit my relatives and receive Eid money and presents. We would then spend our Eid money on sweets, candy, fireworks and toys. Here we know no one. We didn’t even get new clothes for Eid.

Ammar, my little brother, was so young last year; he doesn’t even know what Eid is. How can we even celebrate this feast or any feast when our people are being killed every day? Our home in Syria was destroyed, so for us we cannot celebrate Eid until we return home and rebuild our house.”

Abderraham’s mother told Islamic Relief what Eid was like in Syria: “When we were in Syria, we would buy all the kids new clothes. My husband would even buy me new clothes. We would make delicacies like ‘Maamoul Eid’ and ‘Ghraybe’. All of our relatives and neighbours would come together and help each other make sweets. Some would bake, some make the filling, and it was fun for us and the kids. Now we can’t even afford to buy sweets. The children couldn’t get new clothes this year which is heartbreaking. Since the war began in Syria, we haven’t felt the spirit of Eid.”