

Sudanese refugees overwhelm Israel

by UPI

TEL AVIV, Israel -- Israel is having trouble finding places to house the increasing number of refugees from the war-torn regions of Sudan. The Israel Prison Service warned Friday that it is unable to accommodate many more refugees since its facilities are nearly filled to capacity, Haaretz reports. Prison officials say if the refugee influx continues at its current rate, all available spaces will be filled by next week. Thursday a group of 15 Sudanese refugees being transported to a hospital for medical treatment were abandoned by Israeli Defense Forces on the Be'er Sheva-Dimona Highway. An IDF statement said the refugees were deserted because no authorized institution agreed to accept them after their treatment. Officials at Ketziot Prison say they are unaware of anyone denying an IDF request to house additional refugees. The prison currently houses 950 Sudanese refugees.

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