



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Syrian Gov't: Return of Yarmouk Residents is Well-Planned"

- 32 UNRWA Facilities Destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Displaced Palestinian Families Continue to Rally over Dire Conditions in Deir Ballout Camp
- Palestinians in Germany Call for Urgent Action over Situation in Deir Ballout Camp

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Latest Developments

AGPS hailed, in a press statement, a decision by the Syrian government approving the return of displaced families to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, after they have gone homeless for over five years.

The decision was announced by Syria's deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Miqdad.

AGPS called on the Syrian government to opt for practical measures in order for the new decision to materialize on the ground and rehabilitate infrastructure along with power, water, sanitation, and telecommunication networks.



AGPS stressed the need to dispatch engineers to defuse mines so as to pave the way for the safe return of the residents and smooth the entry of reconstruction materials.

AGPS urged the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) to keep in touch with the concerned authorities in order to secure a safe return to the camp and make sure the refugees do not get harassed or chased down upon their return.



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AGPS appealed to UNRWA to reconstruct its facilities, including schools and clinics, which were destroyed in the warfare.

The group also called on the international community and donor countries to boost UNRWA funding in light of the ad hominem campaigns and sanctions imposed on the refugee agency.

A couple of days earlier, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faysal AlMiqdad said the Syrian government signaled the go-ahead for the return of Palestinian refugees to Yarmouk Camp.

He added that a number of parties and governments have been obstructing Palestinians' return to their camps, denying reports about the intent of the Syrian government to deport Palestinian refugees.

Miqdad also stated that the Syrian government welcomes any endeavors by UNRWA or the PA to contribute to the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp.

Media chief at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)-General Command (GC), Anwar Raja, also said that his party has officially been updated on the decision by the Syrian government, adding that the return process will be carried out along "well-planned moves."

Meanwhile, UNRWA Director in Syria, Mohammed Abdi Adar said 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.



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Adar said UNRWA staff members paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp on October 20, 2018, in order to inspect the damage inflicted on refugee structures, after an official approval was issued by the Syrian government to that end.



Two technical committees have also been formed by the agency to provide thorough data about the condition of UNRWA facilities. The final report will be handed over UNRWA's Director-General.

At the same time, Director-General of Association 302 in Lebanon, Ali Huweidi, dubbed the new decision by the Syrian government a step in the right direction and a strategic move to revitalize life in the camp.

Several UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Along the same line, displaced Palestinian families north of Syria continue to rally for the 30th consecutive day, protesting their tragic living conditions in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp.



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The refugees urged UNRWA, PLO, and the concerned NGOs to live up to their responsibilities as regards dozens of hopeless families taking shelter in Deir Ballout Camp and to provide them with much-needed cash aids, medical items, and relief services.



Nearly 450 Palestinian families, out of 700 families who were displaced from Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns, have been taking refuge in Deir Ballout Camp.

At the same time, Palestinian refugees in Germany have called on the PLO, Palestine's official envoys, and political factions to make serious steps, including holding contacts with the Syrian and Turkish authorities, in order to tone down the crises endured by over 300 Palestinian families in Deir Ballout Camp.

A statement by the Palestinian refugee community in Germany raised concerns over the hardships wrought on the displaced families and their children who have been taking cover in ramshackle tents with the advent of winter.