



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugee Assassinated South of Syria"

- AlSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grappling with Dire Conditions
- Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Urge UNRWA to Transfer Their Cash Aid
- Palestinians among 25 Migrants Rescued by Turkish Coast Guard
- Palestinian Refugee Emad Sa'sa' Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 6th Year

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Victims

Palestinian refugee Yousef Fadi AlKarkati was fatally shot by anonymous gunmen on Friday near ALSod Bridge, in Daraa province, south of Syria.

Yousef is a resident of Daraa AlBalad and had served as a member of the opposition squads in Daraa. His name was included in the reconciliation deal struck between the Syrian government, Russian forces, and opposition groups.

Latest Developments

Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring squalid conditions due to high rates of unemployment.

Nine years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.

The reluctance maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned bodies regarding their cries for help has made the situation far worse.

As a result, Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage has been inflicted on the camp.

The situation has been exacerbated by the lockdown measures imposed as part of the anti-coronavirus battle.



UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon have urged UNRWA to set a new mechanism for cash aid delivery, in light of the extended lockdown measures imposed by the Lebanese government.

The refugees continue to call on the agency to transfer their much-needed cash-grants at the earliest possible time.

UN data indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria (PRS), continue to face dire conditions and high vulnerability in Lebanon.



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According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

Meanwhile, 15 migrants were rescued by the Turkish coast guard off Izmir seashore after they were pushed back from Turkish waters.

“On 15 May 2020 at 00.58 a.m., it was reported that there was a group of irregular migrants on board 2 life boats which were pushed back towards Turkish territorial waters by Greek Coast Guard assets off the coast of Izmir's Seferihisar district/Doğanbey Burnu”, said the Turkish Coast Guard Command (CG) in a statement.



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CG identified the migrants as 11 Congolese, 4 Togolese, 3 Somalian, 3 Central African, 2 Angolan, 1 Syrian and 1 Palestinian. In total, 25 irregular migrants were on board (11 men, 12 women and 2 children). They were rescued by CG boat.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Emad Saa'saa' has been secretly held in Syrian government jails for the 6th consecutive year.

He was arrested by Syrian security forces on July 17, 2014 in AlBahsa, in Damascus. He was a resident of Berzah, in Rif Dimashq. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons.