



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



unrwa
الاونروا

"The absence of UNRWA in Egypt and Turkey leaves the Palestinians of Syria without a supporter or representative"

- Violent clashes on the outskirts of Yarmouk camp between the opposition's fighters and ISIS
- The residents of Yarmouk camp are living in a genuine medical crisis because of ISIS and the Syrian regime
- Fears that UNRWA will stop its aid to the Palestinian-Syrians in Gaza

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Latest Developments

The Palestinian-Syrians in Egypt and Turkey are complaining that UNRWA is not performing its role towards them, especially that this comes amid the complete absence of any international body to sponsor their needs in the areas of their presence. The suffering of the refugees is focused on the relief and legal sides.

On its part, UNRWA justified its absence in Egypt and Turkey, under the pretext that its work is limited to five regions; Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan Lebanon and Syria, and that it cannot perform its work outside these regions.



UNRWA provides its aid to the Palestinians of Syria who are in the five regions only, while the Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Egypt and Turkey do not receive any of UNRWA's assistance or services. As a result, their humanitarian and legal conditions have aggravated.

In south Damascus, the outbreak of violent clashes has continued, between ISIS and the armed Syrian opposition factions, in the Zein neighborhood in south Damascus, for the fifth consecutive day.



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According to the Action Group's correspondent, the opposition factions in Yelda blocked a violent attack launched by ISIS's fighters on Wednesday, at the Zein neighborhood axis which runs between Al-Hajar Al-Aswad and Yelda. During the operation, violent fighting occurred with the use of all types of weapons. The opposition factions managed to target one of ISIS's armored vehicles, which was heading to one of its sites, using a Dushka submachine gun which led to its wreckage.



ISIS escalated its attacks on the Syrian opposition forces over the past few days, in order to taken control of the Zein neighborhood as it considers it a strategic site.

In another context, the remaining residents of the besieged Yarmouk camp are living under tragic health conditions, since the halt of all the hospitals and medical points' services inside the camp, because of the regime's siege and bombardments and ISIS's fighting.

All of the camp's hospitals went out of service almost completely, including Palestine and Bassel Hospitals. Then, ISIS's control in April 2015, led to the complete halt of them, due to its domination



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of all the medical points in the camp and its confiscation of all the medical supplies, to turn these points into military centers, as in Bassel Hospital.

Palestine Hospital did not survive ISIS's violations as it was subjected to many attacks and raids by members of the organization, through which they took over all the medical tools and materials, causing the hospital to go out of service completely. It became a point of receiving the injured before they are transferred by ambulances to the neighboring towns for treatment.

Regarding obtaining medications, the residents are suffering from great difficulty in guaranteeing their medicine because of the shortages and their high prices. The Palestinians of Syria Relief Association's pharmacy in Yelda, is considered the only way in which the residents can get their medicine for free, however ISIS has been tightening on the movement of the residents from the camp to the neighboring towns.

According to confirmed information, the Action Group has received reports from several sources that members of ISIS in Yarmouk camp are not facing difficulties whether in treatment or obtaining the required medicine. They receive treatment in one of the hospitals in the Midan neighborhood which is under the control of the regime, reaching it through the Qadam-Assaly checkpoint.

In the meantime, the Palestinian refugees suffer greatly to be able to leave and receive treatment in the hospitals of Damascus. They require security approvals which could take more than 15 days to be



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issued. This has led to the death of many children, infants and elderly people.

On its part, the Syrian regime recently allowed some ill patients from the camps to leave for treatment in the capital's hospitals, however it has limited the number to only two cases per day.

In the meantime, an atmosphere of pessimism spread among the Palestinian refugees who returned from Syria to Gaza, after reports were heard that UNRWA will cut its cash assistance that it used to provide as a shelter allowance for the Palestinian-Syrians in Gaza.

On his part, Amr Ouda, Member of the follow-up committee of the refugees' affairs from Syria to Gaza, confirmed to the Action Group that UNRWA is about to stop its assistance for the refugees from Syria to Gaza (shelter allowance) under the pretext of fiscal deficits.



Ouda noted that UNRWA's decision to stop its cash assistance in this critical timing, will negatively affect the Palestinian families returning from Syria to Gaza, who are already living in accumulated crises and tragic living conditions, due to what the Strip is



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witnessing from the siege and the un-acknowledgment of refugees by the Palestinian authorities, which has not implemented its decisions or promises towards the refugees. The refugees are unable to travel abroad because they have not received a national number.

Ouda called on the decision makers in UNRWA, through the Action Group, to increase their financial support to the refugees in the Gaza Strip, and to find new sponsors to support it and put pressure on the United States in order not to cancel its financial support.

Palestinians of Syria: January 17, 2018 Statistics:

- The total number of victims documented by the Action Group is 3640, including 463 women
- 1653 Palestinians are locked up behind Syrian government's bars, 106 of which are women
- Yarmouk refugee camp is under the Syrian regime army and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's siege for 1,645 days in a row
- 204 refugees, mainly in Yarmouk Camp, have died due to lack of medical care and malnutrition
- Water supplies have been cut off Deraa Camp for 1382 days, and 1222 days in Yarmouk Camp
- The Regime army has been in control of Handarat camp for more than 480 days. More than 80% of its buildings have been completely or partially destroyed.



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- Approximately 85 thousand Palestinian-Syrian refugees fled to Europe by the end of 2016
- 31 thousand refugees are located in Lebanon
- 17 thousand refugees are sheltered in Jordan
- 6 thousand refugees are in Egypt
- 8 thousand refugees are staying in Turkey
- One thousand refugees are present in Gaza