



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



"Palestinian Families in Syria Protest Israeli Decision to Cut PA Tax Revenues"

- Palestinian Family Appeals for Information over Fate of Missing Son
- Japan Contributes US\$ 23 Million to UNRWA in Support of Palestine Refugees
- Charity Group Delivers Aids to Palestinian Families South of Turkey

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Latest Developments

Families of slain Palestinians and prisoners continue to voice their deep anger over Israel's decision to slash their revenues from tax funds allotted for the Palestinian Authority (PA).

A Palestinian refugee taking shelter in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq, said the families of Palestinians held in Israeli jails and those who were killed by the Israeli occupation forces during the Palestinian Revolution will be severely affected by Israel's deduction of tax payment.



A Palestinian mother who lost her son during the Palestinian Revolution said she has been struggling for survival due to the dire socio-economic conditions she has been enduring in the impoverished Syrian territories. She said that she has no other source of income except for the sums she receives from the Palestine Liberation Organization in Damascus.

An Israeli bill deducting the welfare payments of detainees and families of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces from the Palestinian tax revenues was approved by the "Israeli Knesset" in June and adopted by the Israeli Cabinet earlier this week. Observers said this



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punitive measure is a continuation of enacting racist laws that support illegal Israeli occupation and undermine the two-state solution.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees from Syria died as they fought alongside the PLO shortly after the organization's founding in 1964. Others have been locked up in Israeli dungeons. The PLO and PA allocated salaries of \$300 to \$500 to the families' victims.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Maher Khaled Mahmoud, born in 1994 and raised in AlHajar AlAswad in Syria, has gone missing for the fourth year running after he was kidnapped by pro-government forces at Ali AlWahsh Street checkpoint, in Rif Dimashq, on January 5, 2014. His whereabouts and condition remain unknown.



AGPS kept record of the incarceration of 1,730 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state prisons, among them 108 women and girls.

In the meantime, the Government of Japan has contributed US\$ 23 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The agreement was



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signed by the Japanese Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, Takeshi Okubo, and UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl.

Of this very crucial contribution, US\$ 17.7 million will go towards the Agency's core programs of education, health care and improved living conditions for 5.4 million Palestine refugees across all five fields of UNRWA operation. An additional US\$ 4.5 million will be used to improve the quality of UNRWA health services in the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon and Syria and another US\$ 800,000 will contribute to the education of Palestine refugee children affected by the conflict in Syria.



Ambassador Okubo said: "I'm also pleased to announce to you that the Government of Japan has decided to provide supplementary budget for a new assistance of about US\$ 23 million to UNRWA. We are determined more than ever to send a message to Palestine refugees through the assistance that: A friend in need is a friend indeed. Japan will be there with you. At a time when UNRWA suffers from the financial crisis since last year, and especially Gaza is experiencing humanitarian crisis."



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UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA program budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

In another development, Khayra Ummah Organization distributed 50 BIM cards worth 100 Turkish Liras each to families of orphans and needy children with three members or less. Families comprising four members or more received 150 Turkish Lira.

Khayra Ummah pledged to keep up such humanitarian projects and to reach out to over 275 Palestinian families taking shelter in Mersin.

Nearly 8,000 Palestinian refugees have been sheltered in Turkey, where they have been enduring tough living conditions owing to the lack of access to the local labor market, very low wages, and their ambivalent legal status.