



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



"244 Palestinian Residents of Yarmouk Camp Secretly Locked Up in Syrian Jails"

- Khan Dannun Camp Subjected to Dire Humanitarian Conditions
- Japan Contributes over US\$ 11 Million for Palestine Refugees
- Winter Aids Distributed to Displaced Palestinian Families in Greek Camps

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Latest Developments

244 Palestinian residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, have been secretly held in Syrian dungeons. The list includes 23 women.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to reveal the condition and whereabouts of hundreds of Palestinians who have been enduring mysterious fates in government-run lock-ups.

AGP also documented the death of 556 Palestinians under torture in Syrian government prisons.



In another development, residents of Khan Dannun Camp have been enduring abject living conditions as a result of the price leap, lack of basic services, and water and power blackouts.

Civilians said they have been deprived of life-saving healthcare services due to the absence of specialized medics, night-shift pharmacies, and equipped clinics.

Upon more than once occasion, civilians have also railed against the mounds of trash and debris piled up in civilian neighborhoods and



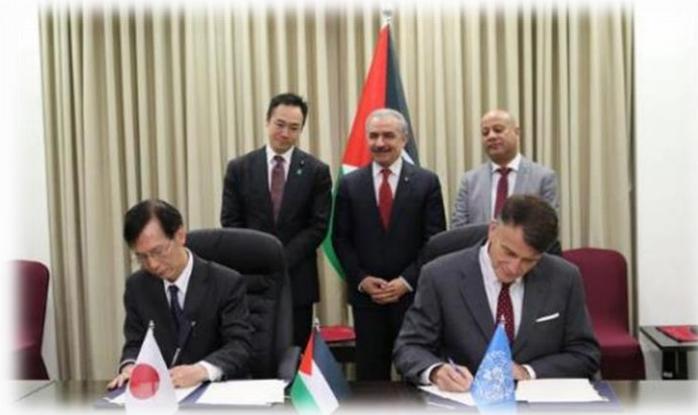
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around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in bed smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

The residents continue to call on the government institutions and UNRWA to urgently step in and work out the crises they have been subjected to at the soonest time possible.

Meanwhile, the Government of Japan signed on Saturday two contribution agreements amounting to 1,214,000,000 Japanese Yen (approximately US\$ 11.15 million) with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The event took place in Ramallah with the presence of Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine and Keisuke Suzuki, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.



Of this important contribution which will be disbursed in a few days, JPY 600,000,000 (US\$ 5.51 million) will immediately enable UNRWA to continue to provide food assistance to 98,000 Palestine refugees in Gaza through the Social Security Net Program (SSNP) and, thus, help mitigate the impact of poverty and food insecurity to those most in need.



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An additional JPY 614,000,000 (US\$ 5.64 million) will contribute to the construction of a school in the Gaza Strip that will provide 1,000 students access to quality education. This additional contribution will also support the construction of a sewerage system in Ein el-Sultan camp in the West Bank to improve the living conditions there. Both infrastructure projects will be implemented throughout 2020 and 2021.

“I am very happy to share with you that the Government of Japan has decided to contribute over US\$ 11 million to UNRWA at this critical time. 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 the region is experiencing serious humanitarian crisis,” Ambassador Magoshi said.

The Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Christian Saunders, said: “On behalf of UNRWA, I would like to thank the Government of Japan for its generous contribution in support of vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Gaza and West Bank. We deeply appreciate this very generous and timely support during what is an exceptionally challenging period for the Agency.”

The Government of Japan is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having supported the Agency since 1953. In 2018, the Government of Japan was the 10th largest contributor to the Agency, playing a critical role at a time when UNRWA faced an existential crisis.

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



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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 the meantime, Shaghaf volunteering foundation distributed food parcels and winter garments to displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in Vathi camp, set up on Samos Island, and in another camp set up on Leros Island.

As a freezing winter season is around the corner, thousands of migrants, including Palestinian refugees from Syria, continue to struggle with terrible conditions, in overcrowded and ramshackle tents and containers on Greek islands.

According to witnesses, thousands of people are crammed into overpopulated and desperately under-resourced facilities in hotspots on Greek islands. Thousands, including children, elderly people, single women, and female heads of households are being forced to live in unequipped tents, sleeping on the ground, as the weather worsens. Some women are forced to share tents with other foreigners, putting their privacy and safety at risk.

