



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



**"87% of Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon Living Below Poverty Line"**

- UNRWA, PLO Discuss Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon
- US Magazine: Syria Unsafe for Refugee Returns
- Scholarships Granted to Palestinian Refugee Students in Lebanon

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87.3% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories; 95% are food insecure and 80% live on cash aid handed over by UNRWA.

Statistics covering the period until the end of 2021 indicate that nearly 29,000 displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter in Lebanon.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Ahmad Abu Holi and



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UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini discussed during a meeting in Gaza the situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Gaza.

The meeting tackled the sit-in tent 194 set up for nearly three weeks by Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon to protest UNRWA's decision to cut aid for PRS.

Abu Holi urged UNRWA Commissioner-General to cancel the decision and transfer food and shelter grants along with winter assistance to PRS.

Abu Holi said UNRWA should opt for an emergency plan to enhance its vital services and urge donors to assume their responsibilities to help UNRWA implement its sustained development strategy in line with UN 2030 agenda for sustained development.

In the meantime, Foreign Policy magazine said Syria is neither safe nor stable for migrant returns.

The magazine said the civil war continues. Returnees—such as Mazen al-Hamada, who was viciously tortured by the regime and formerly sought asylum abroad—often disappear without a trace into the hands of the security state. Assad's regime is not in danger of overthrow, but it totters, dependent on its foreign backers and hungry for foreign capital. It continues to engage in violence in rebel-held Idlib and in the so-called reconciled south while becoming quietly known in its near abroad as a lawless narco-state engaged mainly in exporting refugees and drugs.





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Syrian diaspora media show the fear of refugees that more of Europe will follow Denmark and Sweden in declaring Syria safe enough for return. For now, European legislators broadly condemned Denmark's actions—33 members of the European Parliament wrote to the country's leadership demanding a change in course—and the leader of Denmark's Social Liberals expressed her puzzlement that her country, alone with Hungary, at that time considered Syria to be safe for refugee returns.

Foreign Policy added that Syria is an unstable place. Political change is not inevitable, but it is possible. Congratulating a tyrant before he has truly succeeded in winning his war has some downsides. Many of Syria's neighbors have sizable populations of Syrian refugees. These people are frequently mistreated in the labor markets and are subject to nationalist and sectarian violence.

Lebanon and Turkey are suffering their own economic crises; they would rather be deporting refugees to Syria, in whatever shape it is, than taking more in—yet keeping an unvictorious Assad in power risks more violence, more displacement, and possibly greater tides of people, it said.

Meanwhile, USAID announced it will be granting scholarships for Palestinian refugee students along with Lebanese and Syrian students in Lebanon to enable them to complete their undergraduate studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Lebanese American University (LAU).



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Lebanese or refugee students wishing to obtain a scholarship for the academic year 2022-2023 should submit their applications by March 15, 2022.

The program includes full coverage of tuition fees, healthcare insurance, a laptop, and housing or transportation.

Scores of Palestinian refugee students have failed to get enrolled at universities in the Lebanese territories as authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for visa renewal.

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon continue to launch cries for help over the precarious legal status and lack of protection they have been subjected to in the Lebanese territories.

The vast majority of Palestinians from Syria are grappling with deportation concerns and live in a perpetual fear over their families' safety due to the security mayhem rocking refugee camps in Lebanon.