



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين 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



### "Displaced Palestinian Refugee in Turkey Appeals for Treatment of His Son"

- UNRWA in Syria Extends Contracts of Day Laborers
- Fire Hits Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- Palestinian Refugee Firas Aweidat Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8<sup>th</sup> Year
- Migrants Rail against Mass Evacuation Orders in Greece

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## Latest Developments

The family of Palestinian child from Syria Muawiya Abu Seyam, displaced from Yarmouk Camp to the northern Syrian province of Idlib, have appealed the Turkish authorities and humanitarian institutions to allow them to safely reach Turkish hospitals in order to treat their tumor-stricken child.

The father told AGPS that his three-year-old child needs an urgent surgery to remove a life-threatening tumor and get chemical doses, adding that such treatment is not available in northern Syria.

Medical reports sent by the father to AGPS show that the child has been diagnosed with a 14-centimeter tumor in his navel and which might spread to his left kidney and spleen.

In another development, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has announced its decision to extend the contracts of day workers whose contracts were expected to be ended on May 31.

According to informed sources, the move comes following efforts made by Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), Ali Mustafa, to that end.

On April 21, UNRWA's new Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said the Agency has decided to pay the salaries of its day workers, including those who carried out home-based work.

The decision came weeks after the Agency had said it suspended the wages of day laborers (staff hired and paid one day at a time) after its operations got curtailed in its five fields of operations in response to COVID-19 outbreaks.



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AGPS condemned the decision as arbitrary and unjust, saying it will affect thousands of Palestinian refugees who are the sole breadwinners for their cash-stripped families, particularly in poverty-stricken Gaza and war-tattered Syria. A suspension of their daily wages means that hundreds of children, women, and disabled persons risk to become deprived of vital items, including food and life-saving medicines.

AGPS said responses to coronavirus outbreaks should not be made at the expense of workers' sole livelihoods and to the detriment of their humanitarian needs.

UNRWA has over 30,000 employees, most of them Palestine refugees and a small number of international staff, in two headquarter offices (Gaza and Amman), five field offices (Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and West Bank), and in four Representative/Liaison Offices (New York, Geneva, Brussels and Cairo).

Meanwhile, fires broke out in AlKeitiya neighborhood in Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees, resulting in heavy material damage.

Reporting from Rif Dimashq, an AGPS news correspondent said a house has collapsed after its roof was completely burned down.

Young man Mohamed Khaled also sustained mild injuries and was rushed to Jaramana's surgical hospital.

The reasons behind the fire, which broke out on Sunday, May 21, remain unidentified. Firefighters showed up at the scene and extinguished the fire.



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Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

In the meantime, Palestinian young man Firas Mohamed Aweidat has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons for the eight consecutive year.

Firas was kidnapped on June 13, 2012, after he left his home in Yalda town.

AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees, including 100 women and girls, in Syria's state-run prisons.

Along similar lines, human rights activists have called on migrants and asylum seekers sheltered on Greek islands and on the mainland to hold vigils outside of migration departments to protests Greece's recent decisions to evacuate asylum seekers and push them back to other countries.

Activists said in a statement the Greek authorities plan to force over 12,000 asylum seekers from houses and hotels in Istiaia town.



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They added that the Greek government which ordered asylum seekers to stay at home in response to coronavirus outbreaks has, paradoxically, prevented them from aid grants by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The statement warned of the arbitrary refoulement decisions, rejections of asylum applications, and closure of migrant facilities by the Greek authorities in an attempt to crackdown on asylum seekers.

A few months earlier, the Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection issued a decision to evacuate all buildings housing migrant residents who have received visas or subsidiary protection cards in Greece since 2017.

The Ministry said the eviction should be carried out no later than April 2020.

The decision has resulted in dozens of families, including Palestinian refugee families, being homeless.

Activists said the move dovetails the country's attempt to rein in the influx of migrants and overcrowdings on its islands.

Palestinian refugees who have fled war-stricken zones to Greece have been denied their rights to visas and prevented from accessing vital facilities.