



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



"Stranded Palestinian Refugee in Greece Appeals"

- Palestinians from Syria Rally Outside of UNRWA Office
- UNRWA Renews Contract with Red Crescent Hospital
- Residents of AlHusainiya Camp Denounce Gas Death
- EU Asylum Applications Drop due to COVID

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Abdul Rahman Ahmed Badwan, born in 1995 and raised in Syria's Yarmouk Camp, has appealed to the international human rights institutions and Palestinian Authority to pressurize the Greek authorities to release him from prison.

Abdul Rahman said Greek police arrested him on August 22, 2018 on his way to Thessalonique while boarding a car with four of his friends. He was accused of smuggling migrants to Albania.

Abdul Rahman had been brought before a court after one year and three months in prison. He was sentenced to a five-year prison-term.

Abdul Rahman has spent two years and five months behind prison bars.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria rallied on Thursday July 1 outside of the UNRWA offices in Ein AlHilweh Camp, Central AlBekaa, and AlBadawi Camp, protesting delays in UNRWA aid delivery.

The refugees called on UNRWA to transfer their cash grants in USD and at the earliest possible time.

They further handed over a memorandum to UNRWA's Director of Lebanon Operations.



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UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", UNRWA said that 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% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA's factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

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



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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.

Along similar lines, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced delays in transfer of cooking gas through the smart card used by the Syrian government to ration a wide range of subsidized goods, namely fuel, rice, tea, and sugar.

Civilians said they have been left without gas for over three months, adding that a gas cylinder weighs 10 kg instead of 16. A gas cylinder is sold at the black market at a price of up to 80,000 Syrian pounds.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty;



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91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

In another development, UNRWA has officially reached an agreement with a Red Crescent Hospital in Aleppo in an attempt to contribute to improving hospitalisation services to Palestine refugee north of Aleppo.

Recently, UNRWA in Syria renewed its contracts with Faour Clinic, AlSahbaa, Martini Hospital for Surgical Operations, and AlBassel Heart Institute in order to provide better healthcare services for Palestinian refugees north of Aleppo, including those sheltered in Handarat and AlNeirab camps.

Such agreements aim to decrease the financial burden borne by Palestinian refugees and to strengthen the capacity of hospitals to respond to the needs of the population.

In the meantime, the European Union's asylum agency said that the number of people seeking international protection in Europe hit its lowest level last year since 2013, but that the drop was due mostly to coronavirus travel restrictions.

The European Asylum Support Office, or EASO, said in a new report that 485,000 asylum applications were made in the 27 EU



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countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland in 2020. That's a 32% decrease over the previous year.

It said that "reduced applications were primarily due to restricted mobility and travel, rather than a decrease in the number of people in need of international protection."

Two-thirds of the applications were lodged in just three countries. Germany, where most people from conflict-torn Syria are seeking refuge, registered 122,000 applications, while France had 93,000 applications for international protection and Spain had 89,000.

But EASO said that when economic growth and population size are taken into account, Cyprus, Greece and Malta remain under the greatest pressure to process applications and house asylum-seekers.

Most people seeking protection were from Syria and Afghanistan, followed by nationals of Venezuela and Colombia – who tend to lodge their applications in Spain – and Iraqis. Citizens of Turkey remain among the top seven nationalities hoping to find protection in Europe.