



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

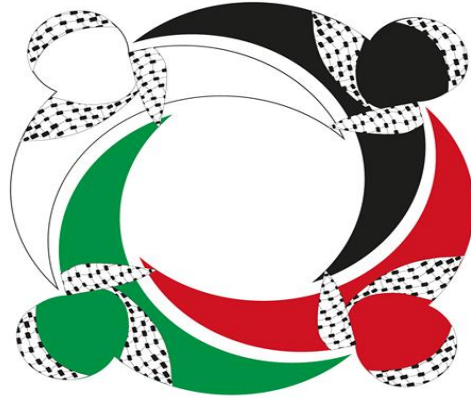
01-09-2021

No. 3336

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



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"AGPS Urges Syrian Regime to Lift Blockade on Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees"

- 4 Palestinian Refugees Benefit From Reconciliation Agreement in Deraa Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Student Arrested in Syria
- UNRWA Re-Opens Aid Distribution Centre in Jaramana Camp
- Austria Signs Agreement for 2m Euros to Support Palestine Refugees in Syria

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Latest Developments

AGPS continues to call on the Syrian security forces and their Russian allies to lift the tough cordon imposed on the Palestinian refugee camp of Deraa along with other areas in the Syrian southern city of Deraa for over 70 days running.

AGPA also demands that the air strikes and attacks launched on the area, and which claimed the lives of civilians, including Palestinian refugees, be immediately ended.

The international community should urgently step in to ensure that the inhumane blockade is immediately lifted and civilians regain access to food and medicines along with other life-saving items.

As a host country for Palestinian refugees, Syria should live up to its legal and moral responsibility and assist the refugees pending their return to their Israeli-occupied homeland.

At the same time, serious and urgent measures should be taken by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian Authority, and the Arab League, among other regional and international parties, in order to ensure Palestinian refugees and other civilians in Syria are kept safe at times of armed shootouts and deadly fighting.



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The United Nations bodies, most notably UNRWA and the UNHRC, should also pressurize the Syrian regime to end the blockade and ensure civilians' access to humanitarian aid supplies.

On June 25, the regime forces asked the residents and former opposition forces to lay down all light weapons and allow them to search their homes. However, the Daraa Central Committee, the main reconciliation center in the area, noted that they were only supposed to hand in heavy weapons as part of the Russian-brokered agreement signed in July 2018. The regime then started imposing a blockade on some 40,000 civilians living in the area.

Palestinian refugees have expressed concerns over a new wave of forced military conscription and arbitrary manhunts in the area.

Along similar lines, 34 young men, including four Palestinians sheltered in Deraa AlBalad, were included in the second phase of a reconciliation deal struck between the Syrian security forces and opposition groups in the blockaded Deraa city, south of Syria.

The Russian-brokered deal states that armed shootouts be immediately halted, a Russian police patrol be stationed in Deraa AlBalad, a reconciliation office be opened to work out the situation of wanted persons, and residents' identity documents be regularly checked.

The agreement also stipulates that four security checkpoints be pitched in the area, the cordon be lifted, services procurement be rehabilitated, prisoners released, and the condition of forcibly-



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disappeared persons be revealed five days after the truce enters into effect.

In another development, Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian regime, arrested a resident of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees over claims of drug-trafficking.

Local sources denied the accusations and told AGPS that the arrestee—Ahmad Ali Meyari—has achieved outstanding school results and has a good reputation. Ahmad got the highest score (238/240) at his final secondary school exams.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Syria.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been accused of running a network for drug trafficking in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.



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Meanwhile, the Palestinian Embassy in Syria accused “malevolent parties” of propagating rumors claiming that Palestinian refugees will be displaced from Syria using the Palestinian Authority-stamped passport.

The embassy attributed the increase in applications for the PA passport to the low issuance costs.

In the meantime, UNRWA has reopened its aid distribution centre in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees.

A few months earlier, the residents denounce the transfer of UNRWA aid supplies to AlRama School which is located several kilometers away from residential neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, the Government of Austria signed on Tuesday a EUR 2 million agreement towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal in 2021.

UNRWA said in a press release that through this funding, Austria will contribute to the Agency’s third round of cash assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria, including 8,212 refugees belonging to the most vulnerable categories (such as female-headed households, families headed by a person with disabilities, and families headed by an elderly or unaccompanied minors) and 13,780 belonging to other vulnerable categories.

After 10 years of conflict, Palestine refugees in Syria are confronted with severe humanitarian challenges, compounded by the rapidly



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deteriorating economy and inflation, as well as by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 91 percent of Palestine refugees in Syria live below the poverty line, and the loss of purchasing power due to the economic crisis and the increase in market prices has severely impacted the ability to meet basic needs, including food.

"Austria stands close to UNRWA, our longstanding partner, to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in need in Syria. We fully acknowledge UNRWA's role in providing critical humanitarian services to Palestine refugees in Syria who not only have gone through a decade of conflict, but are also faced with a severe economic crisis and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also reiterate our firm support to the UNRWA Health Program in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) which Austria has supported through its first Multi-Year Agreement (MYA) signed in 2020," said Astrid Wein, the Austrian Representative in Ramallah.

"On behalf of the Agency, I would like to express my gratitude to Austria for its generous contribution to our emergency program in Syria. This is the third consecutive year that Austria acknowledges the increasing needs of Palestine refugees in Syria and supports UNRWA in delivering critical humanitarian services to help them meet their basic needs. UNRWA also appreciates Austria's commitment to offering regular contributions to UNRWA, including to the Agency's Program Budget, and through the MYA signed in 2020 in support of UNRWA's Health Programme in the oPt," said Karim Amer, UNRWA Director of Partnerships.



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In 2020, the Government of Austria signed a three-year MYA amounting to a total of EUR 5.7 million towards the Agency's Health Program in the oPt with the aim of supporting the protection of Palestine refugees' health, reduce disease burden, and ensuring availability of medicines and medical supplies. In 2021, Austria contributed EUR 400,000 to the UNRWA Program Budget, EUR 1.9 million to the Health Program in oPt, and EUR 2 million to the Syria Regional Crisis Appeal.