



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



"Family of Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Rayen Appeals for Information"

- Drug Consumption Reported in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Child Survives Dangerous Electrocutation
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Facing Squalid Conditions
- Humanitarian Condition Exacerbated by Transportation Crisis in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

The family of Palestinian refugee Mohamed Muneer Abdullah Rayan, aged 19 and raised in Syria's Yarmouk Camp, continue to appeal to the international human rights organizations to work on revealing Rayan's condition and whereabouts.

Rayan disappeared on October 18 as he attempted to reach the Greek territories. He crossed the river on the Turkish-Greek borders before he paused for a break. He was left on his own by his companions.

In another development, Palestinian refugee youths continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the eleven-year warfare in Syria, amidst a deadly pandemic outbreak.

Palestinian refugee youths (aged 12 – 30) make up nearly 30% of the Palestinians of Syria, estimated at 540,000 in 2014.

The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria, including Deraa Camp, to the south.

A former member of a pro-government militia who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity confessed that he was transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to militiamen deployed at



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flashpoints with opposition forces. The militiamen, many of whom were forced into military conscription with regime battalions, consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

In 2020, the Syrian security forces summoned a member of the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian regime, to questioning following reports of drug trafficking. The man, called Faisal, fled to Turkey.

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.

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.

At the same time, the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the weak infrastructure of the education systems in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Many teachers, students, and parents agreed that the quality of teaching and learning deteriorated during the distance education period imposed by the lockdown, despite efforts made by teaching staff.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.



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Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half. Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

In the meantime, a Palestinian girl, sheltered in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, was injured in an electric shock.

An AGPS reporter said the girl was electrocuted as she walked near a billboard on her way back home from school.

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

UN data indicates that 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



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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.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In another development, Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the eleven-year warfare.

Palestinian families have been overburdened by the price leap and absence of humanitarian aid.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The camp historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.



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Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

Along similar lines, Students and parents at AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to secure transportation means to give daily lifts to the local university due to overcrowding and unpunctuality in public means of transport.

The residents called for the need to secure buses to transfer students to and back from their academic institutions, saying schoolchildren and students have been forced to pay twice the tariff imposed by local authorities.

Bus drivers reportedly sell fuel bought to operate their vehicles at the black market at a price of up to 3,000 Syrian pounds a liter after buying it at a price of no more than 500.



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Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlNeirab Camp continue to sound distress signals over the high rates of unemployment, water and power outages, along with the absence of health care and vital items, particularly fuel and gas.