



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



### "Palestinian Families Facing Dire Conditions in T'Seil Town"

- Another Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syrian Prisons
- Cash-Stripped Palestinian Families Denounce Power Crisis in Syria Displacement Camp
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Left without Power for Days
- UN: Financial Crisis Faced by Palestine Refugee Agency Worst in years

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in T'seil town, in the southern Syrian province of Daraa, continue to launch cries for help over the exacerbated socio-economic conditions they have been enduring.

Palestinian families continue to call on all concerned parties, including UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization, to rally around them and help them reconstruct their destroyed homes.

The situation has been made worse by the coronavirus outbreak across the war-torn country.

Palestinian families came to T'seil town following the 1948 catastrophe, after they were forced out of their homes in Palestine by Zionist militias.

Located some 30 kilometers north of Daraa city center, T'seil has been home to hundreds of Palestinian refugee families.

In another development, the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) has documented the death of a Palestinian refugee in Syrian prisons.

His name has been kept secret over security concerns as his family lives in Damascus.

The family was updated on the refugee's death on March 1. The victim was a resident of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.



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AGPS has recorded the death of over 620 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government penitentiaries, among them minors and elderly detainees.

AGPS believes the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian regime on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the casualty's families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.

Most of the victims' bodies have been withheld by the Syrian authorities, which is prohibited under international law except in cases where pillage and mistreatment are feared to occur.

The Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Convention, and the Rome Statute consider the despoliation and mistreatment of dead bodies war crimes.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee families in AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, have launched distress calls over the exorbitant prices of fuel-powered electricity generators in an area that has been rocked by chronic power blackouts.

The residents said they have been forced to pay as much as 25,000 Syrian pounds per month in order to receive power supplies from fuel-operated generators.

They further urged the Syrian authorities to take the necessary measures in response to unlicensed manipulation of power generators.



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Local activists told AGPS that officers and members of Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been receiving up to 130 amps for free in return for turning blind eyes to such violations.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.



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Along similar lines, residents of the western neighborhood of Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees said power installations have been inoperative for several days, exacerbating even further the squalid humanitarian condition in the camp.

The families have called on the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) and UNRWA to take urgent measures regarding the power crisis, the poor infrastructure, and the uncleared debris.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the ten-year warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan 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.

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





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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.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said it has been struggling with an acute financial deficit which is likely to keep going for years to come.

Speaking with Palestine Voice radio station on March 1, UNRWA spokesman Sami Masha'sha said that though several donors have been assisting UNRWA by means of steady contributions, the Agency has been facing the worst financial crisis in years.

Masha'sha said resuming US aid to the Agency and holding the international donor conference can partly solve the crisis but they do not bring it to a halt.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.