



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

02-11-2020

No. 2932

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Denounce Transportation Crisis"

- Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Exacerbated by Bread Price Hike
- Palestinian Refugees Take Part in Training Course South of Turkey
- Fire breaks out at refugee camp on Greek island of Samos

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

A transportation crisis has been rocking Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, where workers and students continue to face serious difficulties getting to their workplaces and schools.

The residents said buses do not show up on time, forcing them to board private means of transportation at high prices. Others have found no other way-out than to walk for dozens of kilometers in order to reach their destinations.

A resident said a decision by the local transportation directorate to allocate five buses to Khan Eshieh camp has been rescinded by an anonymous official on claims that minibuses are available in the area.

The residents added that their appeals to the concerned institutions have almost gone unheeded.

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



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

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 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, state-run bakeries in AlSabina camp have reportedly been manipulating the prices of subsidised bread after the government increased pack prices.

A bread pack is sold in the area at a price of up to 120 Syrian pounds if the bakery is located less than 10 kilometers away from the subsidised seller. In case the distance exceeds 10 kilometers the bread pack is sold at 125 pounds.

On Thursday, October 29, the Syrian government gave instructions that state-run bakeries sell subsidised bread for 100 pounds per packet, up from 50 pounds.



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

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

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; 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, the Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (FIDAR) wrapped up a training course in computer maintenance in Reyhanli province, south of Turkey. 15 Palestinian refugees from Syria took part in the training, which last for two months and a half (40 hours).

FIDAR's training and development chief said the course aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of Palestinian refugees and boost their scientific expertise.

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Turkey have increasingly expressed concerns over their deteriorating condition particularly in light of the new movement clampdown imposed across Turkish provinces as part of anti-coronavirus measures.



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

A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

Meanwhile, three days after a deadly earthquake, a fire broke out in the refugee camp on Greece's Samos island on Monday, burning down 15 tents, leaving at least 150 people without shelter.

The blaze started at 4 a.m. local time and 21 firemen with seven vehicles battled for four hours to bring it under control.

The south-Aegean island of Samos was hit by a powerful earthquake that shook the region Friday and killed two teenagers on Samos and injured at least 19 other people on the island. The overall death toll in Friday's quake reached 85 in Turkey after teams found more bodies overnight amid toppled buildings in Izmir, the third-largest city.

The fire has once again revealed how desperate the situation in Greece's refugee camps has been. According to official figures, 4,200 people are sheltered at the Samos refugee camp, which was built for 600. Late September, two more fires had broken out in the camp as a result of arson.

In August, a fire destroyed the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, where prosecutors raised arson charges against four Afghan nationals. The Moria camp, has a capacity of just over 2,750 people but was housing more than 12,500 inside and in a spillover tent city that sprang up in an adjacent olive grove. It has been routinely criticized by rights groups and the United Nations



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

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its lack of sanitation and overcrowding. Following the devastating fire, thousands have been forced to sleep in the open without access to food and water.

Since becoming one of the main gateways into Europe for migrants and asylum-seekers in 2015, Greece has built dozens of detention centers where overcrowding, poor hygiene, and absence of vital services are common.