



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

02-12-2020

No. 2962

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "27 Palestinian Students Graduate from Medicine Faculty in Syria"

- Displaced Palestinian Families Facing Deteriorating Conditions in Syria's Khan Eshieh Camp
- UNRWA Pledges to Transfer Humanitarian Aid for Palestinian Refugees
- Swedish Migration Agency Provides New Assessment of Asylum Seekers

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## Latest Developments

Some 25 Palestinian students from Syria have graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Syria.

Ten graduates are residents of AlNeirab Camp in Aleppo and eight are from Yarmouk Camp.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

Almost ten years into the conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The conflict has caused immense suffering and trauma over the past years.

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



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As in other refugee camps across Syria, the cost of living index in Khan Eshieh is several times higher than the pre-war period. Prices have seen a 1000% leap, overburdening even further the cash-stripped families.

Unemployment rates have also seen an unprecedented increase among Khan Eshieh residents, resulting in growing poverty rates.

Over recent years, most of the displaced Palestinian families have depended on aid items sporadically given by UNRWA and other charities to pay rental fees and purchase much-needed items.

The displaced Palestinian families continue to denounce the apathy maintained by local authorities as regards their calls for clearing the mounds of trash piled up across residential alleyways.

Frequent outages in power/water and telecommunications networks have made the situation more alarming.

Civilians have also been living in a perpetual fear of arrest and prosecution as several residents have been summoned to questioned, others were sent to jail, and several others blackmailed or threatened.

The families have appealed to UNRWA and the relief institutions to take urgent action regarding the alarming humanitarian condition in the camp.

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



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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 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.

In another development, UNRWA vowed to deliver food and cash aid to Palestinian refugees and to pay salaries of UNRWA staffers for 2021.

This came during a meeting between director of UNRWA operations in Syria Amanyah Michael Ebye and Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) Ali Mustafa.

In the meantime, the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) has conducted a new assessment of asylum seekers from Syria.



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It said the security situation in Syria continues to be very serious. The level of conflict in over half of the country's provinces remains life-threatening. However, an asylum-seeker should submit strong proof that his/her life is at risk.

SMA said that in the past year, the Syrian state has increased its recruitment to the military. At the same time, the UN reports that the Syrian army is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. In addition, anyone refusing to do military service or deserting is at risk of severe punishment.

The law states that anyone at risk of being forced to commit or participate in war crimes or crimes against humanity has a right to protection in Sweden. The Swedish Migration Agency therefore now assesses that individuals who are at risk of having to do military service if they return to Syria may have a right to refugee status.

It is mainly men aged 18 to 42 who are affected, but every application will be examined individually.

If an asylum seeker has received a refusal of entry or an expulsion order that no longer can be appealed, but risk being inducted into national military service if he/she must return to Syria, he/she can contact the Swedish Migration Agency. It will then make an individual examination of the circumstances in his/her case and decide if the grounds he/she presented give them the right to stay in Sweden.