



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



UNRWA

"US Pledges \$99 Million to Palestine Refugee Agency"

- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Call for Equitable Bread Distribution
- Civilians' Life Threatened by Motorbike Riders in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- 229 Migrants Rescued by Turkish Coast Guard

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Latest Developments

The United States pledged on Thursday to shell out \$99 to refresh the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in light of the unprecedented financial crunch.

In a tweet, the State Department's Population, Refugee and Migration Bureau said: "The U.S. is proud to announce \$99M for UNRWA to provide education, health care, and emergency relief to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children and families during a time of need."

"U.S. remains focused on the agency's accountability, transparency, neutrality, and stability", added the Migration Bureau on Twitter.

Last week, the UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini warned that long-running budget shortfalls had forced the agency to introduce austerity measures, stretching the level of aid it could offer Palestinians to the limit.

"For close to a decade now, donor funding to the Agency has stagnated and remained below the amount needed to ensure the continuation of quality services. At the same time, the refugee population has continued to grow while poverty and vulnerabilities have skyrocketed. The financial crisis is of an existential nature," warned Lazzarini.



In another development, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, have called on the Syrian authorities to control bread distribution and bread smuggling to the black market.

A resident told AGPS that over recent years, funds have been raised by donors to cover bread expenses, including production at the local AlJalil bakery. However, civilians continue to suffer an acute shortage in bread supplies as the bakery staff have been smuggling bread to the black market.

Eye-witnesses said overnight a number of staff workers have been taking advantage of the power blackout and taking large quantities of bread packs outside the camp.

At government-subsidized bakeries a bread pack is sold at 400 Syrian pounds.

At the same time, no special anti-coronavirus measures have been taken in the area, leaving civilians at high contamination risk.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Eshieh camp have spoken up against the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.



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After eleven years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have raised concerns over the increasing abductions, home-burglary attempts, and sexual harassment reported in the area, particularly overnight due to chronic power blackouts.

Civilians said masked motorcyclists driving at high speed and without regard for road safety rules have been involved in robbery in the area.

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 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.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.



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In the meantime, Turkish Coast Guard Command units rescued 229 illegal migrants who were pushed back by the Greek coast guard in the Aegean Sea on Friday.

Acting on a tip, the Turkish coast guard rescued at least 102 irregular migrants on a rubber boat who were pushed into Turkish territorial waters by the Greek authorities off the district of Çeşme in Izmir province, a statement by the coast guard said.

In the district of Dikili, also in Izmir, Turkish teams rescued 59 more irregular migrants in a rubber dinghy.

Separately, the coast guard also saved a total of 68 irregular migrants off the Çeşme and Dikili districts when they asked for help due to engine failure in their boats.

All migrants were transferred to the provincial migration office.

Hundreds of people have died at sea as many boats carrying refugees sank or capsized. The Turkish Coast Guard Command has rescued thousands of others.

Turkey and Greece are key transit points for migrants looking to cross into Europe, fleeing war and persecution to start new lives. Turkey has accused Greece of large-scale pushbacks, summary deportations and denying migrants access to asylum procedures, which is a violation of international law. Ankara also accuses the European Union of turning a blind eye to this blatant abuse of human rights.



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Pushbacks are considered contrary to international refugee protection agreements, which dictate that people should not be expelled or returned to a country where their life and safety might be in danger due to their race, religion, nationality or membership in a social or political group.