



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

03-10-2021

No. 3368

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Displaced Families Fear Unabated Coronavirus Outbreak in Northern Syria"

- Palestine Ambassador in Damascus Visits Yarmouk Camp
- Lazzarini: US-UNRWA Framework Does Not Affect UNRWA Mandate, Definition of Palestinian Refugees
- Humanitarian Situation Exacerbated by Sanitation Crisis in AlRamadan Camp
- Art Exhibition Held by Palestinian Refugee from Syria in Copenhagen

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## Latest Developments

Concerns have mounted in displacement camps set up in northern Syria as coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in the area.

The residents slammed AFAD for its mismanagement of the health crisis, saying more nurses should be sent to the area to take nose swabs and test suspected cases.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

AGPS stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with oxygen cylinders and medicines in order to help the displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

AGPS calls on the national and international humanitarian organizations and concerned authorities to set an emergency plan in order to help curtail the highly-contagious virus.



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In another development, the Palestine Ambassador in Syria, Samir AlRefai, showed up on October 3 in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, to keep tabs on rubble-clearance works.

AlRefai said the committee appointed by the Palestine Liberation Organization has started removing debris from access roads in the camp.

The ambassador said efforts have been underway to rehabilitate infrastructure and reconstruct destroyed schools in Yarmouk Camp.

Meanwhile, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, said the Agency's humanitarian mission is mandated by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and no bilateral agreement shall delegitimize its mission or redefine the status of Palestinian refugees.

In a letter to UNRWA staff, Lazzarini said the 2021-2022 US-UNRWA Framework for Cooperation, signed in June, does not affect the Agency's legitimate mission nor does it contradict the UN decades-long humanitarian principles.

Lazzarini told UNRWA staff that the Agency's verification of the names of all cash recipients and beneficiaries, including employees and external contractors, against the United Nations Consolidated Sanctions List, is conducted twice a year and in line with the long-standing UN procedures.



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UNRWA chief added that the Agency's staff should respect internal regulations and the principle of neutrality including on social media. In any instance of incitement to violence or politicized position, the Agency takes strict punitive and legal measures.

He added that UNRWA updates host countries on its staff list based on the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The political environment during recent years and the increasing attacks on the Agency's mandate have been a source of grave concern for Palestinian refugees. Those who seek to undermine UNRWA's legitimacy will take advantage of potential violations of the principle of neutrality in order to pressure governments to defund the agency.

In another development, residents of AlRamadan Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, denounced the frequent breakdowns rocking the sewerage network in the camp's southern corners, resulting in sewage overflows in residential neighborhoods. Civilian houses sustained material damage.

A resident warned of the spread of diseases due to the use of the "technical pit" of the sewer as an emergency alternative. The submersible pump has gone out of operation.

The residents leveled heavy criticism at the local committee and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees for their apathy regarding malfunctions in the sewer for more than 12 years. They called on the concerned authorities to urgently repair the sewage and water networks.





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Residents of AlRamadan Camp for Palestinian refugees, southeast of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over the socio-economic crises they have been enduring as a result of poverty, unemployment, the acute dearth in vital items.

The residents continue to appeal to all concerned authorities, particularly UNRWA, to take urgent action in response to the dire humanitarian situation they have been struggling with.

Founded in the 1950s following efforts made by UNRWA to that end, AlRamdan Camp for Palestinian refugees is located some 50 kilometers away from southeastern Damascus. The nearest city to the camp—AlDameer city—is located at a distance of nine kilometers.

In the meantime, an exhibition was staged on October 2 by Palestinian artist from Syria Maamoun AlShayeb in Copenhagen as part of a cultural event held by Shamat Amal Association.

A number of Arab and non-Arab academics and artists, along with Arab community representatives in Denmark, were in attendance.

Maamoun AlShayeb was born in 1960 in Damascus-based Yarmouk Camp. His parents are natives of Haifa, in Palestine. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1984 and worked as a drawing teacher in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria for over 25 years.