



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Displaced Palestinian Families Call for Urgent Return to Yarmouk Camp as Municipal Committee Gets Activated"

- As Winters Draws Near, Situation of Palestinian Refugee Families in Syria Worsened by Exorbitant Fuel Prices
- Palestinian Child Left on His Own after His Mother's Death
- Leisure Activities Held for Orphans in Northern Syria Displacement Camps

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Latest Developments

The local committee of Yarmouk Camp has gone operative inside the municipality building, at a time when reconstruction works by Damascus governorate have been on the go.

Recently, local authorities said return applications will be temporarily suspended. Activists said families wishing to return to their houses and retrieve their property should sign up at the municipality headquarters.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

On January 07, 2020, Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen AlSaman, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, called on Palestinian refugees to file lawsuits in order to return to their homes and retrieve their properties in Yarmouk.

Such calls come in response to the reluctance maintained by local authorities in Damascus regarding the residents' ongoing appeals to rehabilitate infrastructure and allow displaced civilians to safely return to the camp.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.



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On February 4, 2019, a petition was handed over by the residents to Damascus governor Adel Anwar AlAlabi, urging local authorities to smooth the return of displaced families to their homes.

The 200-page petition, signed by 3,000 residents of Yarmouk Camp, called on the Syrian authorities to work on facilitating their immediate return to their homes and to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure and facilities.

The residents expressed their readiness for voluntary work and to actively take part in reconstruction works.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Along similar lines, hundreds of Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlSabina camp fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes this year, as a freezing winter season is about to unlock its gates.

The residents have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of



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all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.

The price of a ton of wood has been raised to 180, 000 Syrian pounds while a liter of fuel is sold in the black market at over 250 pounds.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.



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The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

In another development, a two-year-old Palestinian child called Samer was transferred to an orphanage run by the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies in Istanbul after his mother was killed by her husband last month.

A Palestinian delegation in Istanbul showed up at the orphanage to check on his condition pending the arrival of his relatives from Syria to take care of him.

Samer's mother, Hiba Yousef, a former resident of Syria's Yarmouk Camp, was found dead, covered with blood, in the Turkish metropolitan city of Istanbul last month, after her husband stabbed her to death on October 11 in Esenyurt district, west of Istanbul, following an altercation between them. The husband slaughtered her in cold blood in the presence of her child.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Commission for Relief and Development organized leisure activities for sightless orphans in Atimah village, north of Syria.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.



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AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in Syria due to war-related incidents.

The list of victims includes 70 children who died due to the blockade imposed by the Syrian government forces and its armed allies on Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

AGPS also documented the secret incarceration of 48 Palestinian minors in Syrian government prisons, where two children died under torture.

Sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their moms' arms in Syrian prisons and whose fates have remained shrouded in mystery.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.