



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



"Palestinian Refugees Struggling for Survival in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Family Appeals for Life-Saving Treatment of Their Son
- Palestinian Refugee Maamoun Jaloudi Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons since 2015
- Woman Dead, Another Missing as Migrant Boat Sinks off Aegean Coast
- Bread Packs Distributed in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

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

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

The refugees continue to urge UNRWA and all other concerned parties to increase financial aid, help the displaced families return to their refugee camps, and provide much-needed relief services for Palestine refugees.

Over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes, warned the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees.

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 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.



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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.

The majority of Palestinians sheltered in displacement camps set up across the Syrian territories have remained at bay from political calculations and frequently refused attempts by all warring parties to drag them into the raging warfare, saying their priority is to secure safe shelters for their children and families pending a just and lasting solution to their refugee plight and return to their motherland—Palestine.

Along similar lines, the family of Palestinian child from Syria Muawiya Abu Seyam, displaced from Yarmouk Camp to the northern Syrian province of Idlib, have appealed the Turkish authorities and humanitarian institutions to help them secure money needed to treat their tumor-stricken child.

The family told AGPS that their three-year-old child is being treated at Turkish hospital and needs an urgent surgery to remove a life-threatening tumor.

The child should undergo an MRI which costs 400 USD in order for medics to be able to determine the surgery date.

Medical reports sent sometime earlier to AGPS showed that the child suffers a 14-centimeter tumor in his navel and which might spread to his left kidney and spleen.



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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Maamoun Beshar AlJaloudi has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons for the fifth consecutive year.

Maamoun was kidnapped by Syrian security forces on June 25, 2015, at a checkpoint pitched between Beit Sahem and Yalda, south of Damascus. His condition and whereabouts remain unknown.

Shortly after Maamoun's arrest, pro-government news outlets in Syria quoted him as confessing to his leadership role with Aknaf Beit ALMaqdis battalion in Yarmouk Camp and to alleged ties with the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas.

Hamas denied the allegations, saying that it had no ties with the group and that AlJaloudi was subjected to forced confession at gunpoint.

Meanwhile, a search and rescue operation was underway in the eastern Aegean Sea on Wednesday after a dinghy carrying migrants either sank or overturned off the Greek island of Lesbos, the Greek coast guard said.

The body of one woman was recovered from the sea in the early afternoon, while 32 people — 15 men, 14 women and three children — were rescued, it said. One more woman was listed as missing, and two coast guard patrol boats, one volunteer rescue team boat and an aircraft from the European border agency Frontex were participating in the search.



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The migrants were located during a routine patrol early Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi issued a statement expressing his “sorrow for the shipwreck ... and the loss of human lives.”

Greece remains one of the most popular routes into the European Union for people fleeing poverty and conflict in the Mideast, Africa and Asia. The vast majority make their way from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands, often in unseaworthy and grossly overcrowded dinghies and boats.

In another development, the Committee of Displaced Palestinians from Syria distributed on Tuesday, December 1, bread packs to displaced Palestinian families from Syria in Ein AlHiwleh camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency’s cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS’s vulnerability is further compounded



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by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.