



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

04-01-2021

No. 2995

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS Issues Short Report about Situation of Palestinians of Syria in 2020"

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Denied Right to Bury Their Relatives at Local Cemetery
- AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grippled With Fuel Shortage
- ALSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grappling with Dire Conditions
- Palestinian Refugee Ahmad Abu Asiya Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

A concise report has been issued by AGPS about the situation of Palestinian refugees in/from war-torn Syria (PRS) in 2020.

The 17-page paper sheds the light on PRS's access to vital services including healthcare, education, and housing.

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

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.

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.

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.



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

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.

AGPS calls on the international community and UNRWA to assume their responsibilities regarding the Palestinian refugee community and to work on providing those trapped in conflict zones, particularly Syria, with psycho-physical and legal protection.

AGPS also stresses the need to secure the refugees' access to their basic rights to free movement, healthcare, humanitarian assistance, and education, as per international laws and conventions.

Along similar lines, burying their deceased beloved ones has become a nightmarish quest for Palestinians taking refuge in and around Yarmouk Camp.

The refugees find it too difficult to secure a burial spot due to a shortage of land and soaring tomb prices.

The residents have been subjected to tough security restrictions as they attempt to entomb their deceased relatives in the local cemetery. In order for burial procedures to be green-lighted by the government-run Palestine Branch, a medical report and a death certificate should be obtained by the family.



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

Documents proving that the deceased person is a resident of Yarmouk and that he/she has no affiliations with the opposition forces should also be acquired by the family.

A refugee told AGPS that local authorities prevented his family from burying his brother in the new cemetery, forcing them to seek a tomb in Khan Eshieh camp, where authorities required a sum of 100,000 Syrian pounds.

Meanwhile, dozens of cash-strapped families in AlHusainiya refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, said they have been deprived of fuel supplies needed for cooking and heating purposes.

Civilians said fuel supplies slated to be distributed via the smart card, with an estimated 100 to 200 liters per family, have not yet been distributed.

A liter of fuel is being sold at up to 1,000 Syrian pounds, a sum which the cash-strapped families can hardly afford.

High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

Offensives launched on the camp using MIG warplanes led to the death of dozens of civilians in AlHusainiya Camp and a massive material destruction. Bloody shootouts between the opposition outfits and the Syrian government forces culminated in the latter's takeover of the camp on October 9, 2013.



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

In the meantime, Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring squalid conditions due to high rates of unemployment.

Nine years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.

The reluctance maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned bodies regarding their cries for help has made the situation far worse.

As a result, Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage has been inflicted on the camp.

The situation has been exacerbated by the lockdown measures imposed as part of the anti-coronavirus battle.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.



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

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Ahmad Abu Asiya, from Khan Dannun camp, in Rif Dimashq, has been secretly locked up in Syrian prisons for the sixth consecutive year.

He was arrested by Syrian security forces on February 01, 2015.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.



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

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who tested positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.

The Syrian authorities and all concerned parties should also take precautionary measures and enhance captivity conditions to rein in a tragic propagation of the virus in jail.