



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



"Palestinians from Syria Protest Outside of UNRWA Office in Amman"

- UNRWA Cuts Aid Budget to Palestine Refugees due to Funding Crisis
- Palestinian Refugee Missing in Turkey for 2 Weeks
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Denounce Bread Crisis
- Palestinian Refugee Mootaza Hasan Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

Dozens of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have joined a vigil held outside of the office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to protest their dire humanitarian conditions and precarious legal status.

The refugees lifted banners calling for their basic rights and for urgent humanitarian action to save their children's fate.

UNRWA officials reportedly noted down the refugees' demands and pledged to take serious measures in response to their appeals.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.



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A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

Along similar lines, Leni Stenseth of Norway, Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), warned that the Agency is forced to reduce 10% of its budget for 2021 due to decreasing funds and the coronavirus pandemic.

In the webinar, representatives of Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt expressed their firm rebuff of the Agency's budget cut, which they said would seriously affect the Palestinian refugee communities across UNRWA's fields of operations.

The host countries called on the United Nations to increase its funding to UNRWA in order to help it maintain its vital services for nearly 6 million Palestinian refugees registered with the Agency.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Diab Ali, nicknamed AlMesri, has gone missing from the Turkish city of Izmir for a couple of weeks.



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His family continues to appeal for information about his condition and whereabouts.

AGPS data indicates that 323 Palestinian refugees, including 37 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare.

Meanwhile, residents of AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, spoke out against the insufficient quantities and poor quality of bread sold in the area.

They further lashed out at the poor and unfair distribution mechanisms implemented by government-run distributors, overburdening even further the cash-stripped families.

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. Frequent water and power outages have made the situation far worse.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mootaz Abdullah Mohamed Hasan has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian prisons for over seven years.

Mootaz was arrested at his house in AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, on January 10, 2014. His condition and whereabouts could not be identified.



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AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).