



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

04-10-2020

No. 2903

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugee Child Left without Treatment in Turkey"

- Residents of Khan Alsheh Camp for Palestinian Refugees Denounce Mistreatment at UNRWA Clinic
- Damascus Governor to Visit Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Over 40 Coronavirus Cases Reported at Syria Schools
- Palestinian Refugee Muad AlKhatib Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Ayman Daouah, displaced from Syria's Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, has appealed for urgent humanitarian action, saying his son's health condition has sharply deteriorated as has been denied admission into Turkish hospitals.

Ayman said hospitals refused to let his child in on account that the family does not hold the kimlik temporary protection card.

The refugee added that his child's health condition has taken a turn for the worse due to a medical error and a botched surgery he underwent in Istanbul.

Hundreds of PRS have been unable to provide for their children and families in Turkey. A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.



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

Along similar lines, residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at a UNRWA-run clinic in the camp.

Local activists have urged the UN refugee agency, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and all other concerned authorities to take immediate action in response to the mistreatment they have been facing at the UNRWA clinic.

In a statement emailed to AGPS, the residents slammed the medical staff at the clinic for their apathy regarding the appeals of a number of patients for much-needed treatment and medicines, along with psychological support.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.



Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In another development, Damascus Governor Mohamed AlAlebi is slated to pay a visit to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees in the next few days, pro-government sources in Syria reported.

According to the same sources, the visit comes in line with the final arrangements to make way for the return of displaced families to their habitable houses after obtaining permits to that end.

Sometime earlier, a report issued by AGPS under the title "Yarmouk Camp: What's Behind the New Reconstruction Plan" has spotlighted the projected impact of the new master plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 06, 2020 to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp.

The report warns that the new plan violates the residents' ownership rights and swells up over 50% of old buildings and property owned by civilians. No compensations, except for small shares, are, however, proposed in the plan.

The reconstruction plan will also result in a removal of the camp's demographic character. No more than 40% of the residents will be



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

allowed to return to their homes in mildly damaged areas. Several families will not be able to prove property ownership due to such laws and regulations as Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment. The situation is even more complicated for those who lost their documents in the warfare as well as those currently sheltered abroad.

It is believed that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.



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

Meanwhile, the Syrian Education Ministry said it has kept record of 41 coronavirus cases among students and teaching and administrative staff at schools nationwide.

This school year, 49,000 Palestine refugee girls and boys have gone back to 103 schools run by the UNRWA in Syria, with measures being taken by teaching staff to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Students and teaching staff have been wearing face masks, using disinfectants, and keeping to social distancing as part of safety measures recommended by the Agency.

As the new academic year has stepped in, Palestinian refugee schoolchildren and students continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the ten-year warfare.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help



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

feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Dozens of Palestinian students, schoolchildren, and teaching staff have been killed or forcibly disappeared in war-ravaged Syria.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Moad Adnan AlKhatib, sheltered in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, has been held in government prisons since December 1, 2012.

AlKhatib was a student of AlFatah AlIslami College and the Imam (preacher) of AlSahabi Zaher Mosque, in AlHusainiya Camp.

At least 36 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlHusainiya Camp have been secretly detained by Syria's pro-government forces since the outbreak of the conflict.