



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



"Palestinians of Yarmouk Camp Launch Cry for Help"

- **Palestinians in AlBal Camp Deprived of Humanitarian Assistance**
- **UNRWA Shocked at Shrapnel Incident Causing Damage to School Building in Syria**
- **Displaced Migrants Appeal for Decent Housing following Wildfire in Greek Camp**

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Latest Developments

Human rights activists have appealed to the Palestinian and international NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian families who remained in Yarmouk refugee camp.

The activists stressed the need to secure bread, drinking water, and vital food items to the residents, in light of the movement restrictions slapped across the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Civilians lashed out at UNRWA, saying the only action made by the Agency regarding their appeals was limited to awareness-raising messages and calls for home quarantines.

Activists have warned that civilian property has also been subjected to theft and homes to burglary in the government-held camp. Flocks of vehicles laden with belongings stolen from abandoned buildings in the camp are spotted on a quasi-daily basis.



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



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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.

Unofficial statistics indicate that some 200 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

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, displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in ramshackle and poorly-equipped tents set up in AlBal Camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo's northern outskirts, north of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over their alarming humanitarian condition.

The refugees said they have not received relief items and cash grants despite their ongoing appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance.



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The families have sounded distress signals over the dire situation they have been facing owing to the absence of vital services, relief assistance, and potable water. The camp is located several kilometers away from the city center.

The displaced Palestinian families have appealed to UNRWA and the concerned humanitarian organizations to make urgent steps in order to alleviate their suffering.



Located north of Suran city, in the northern countryside of Aleppo, AlBal Camp was established in April 2018 to give shelter to families displaced from Eastern AlGhouta. It is home to nearly 600 makeshift tents funded by AFAD charity and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The rampant Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on the Palestinian refugees, hundreds of whom have been struggling for survival in the violence-stricken country.

In another development, the UN Palestinian Refugee Agency (UNRWA) denounced the acute damage wrought on its school in Hums city.



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A statement by Amany Michael-Ebye, Director of UNRWA Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic, said that on the morning of Friday, 1 May 2020, the Al-Shajara School of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Homs Palestine refugee camp was hit by shrapnel emanating from an explosion in an ammunition depot outside the camp, causing damage to at least one of its classrooms.

The school was empty at the time of the incident, as are all 103 UNRWA schools across Syria, due to measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

760 Palestine refugee children are currently registered in the damaged school building in Homs, all of whom have grown up during conflict and experienced violence, loss and pain. The incident triggered traumatic memories of earlier days of the Syrian conflict for families living in nearby homes in the crowded camp, as well as for UNRWA staff guarding the facility.

UNRWA is in the process of assessing the damage caused to the school building.

UNRWA said that educational facilities should be protected and remain a safe haven for students to learn and build their future, where they should feel secure and free from the strain of conflict. The right to education, which includes integrity of and access to school buildings, should be protected at all times.

In another development, migrants taking shelter in Vathy camp, set up on the Greek island of Samos, have urged the local authorities and international humanitarian organizations to provide



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them with safe shelters after a fire tore through the camp last week and destroyed most of the residential facilities in the area.

At least 200 migrants and refugees have been left homeless after a fire rocked the camp on the Greek island of Samos, according to a migration ministry official.

"Around 200 people have been left homeless," Migration Ministry Secretary Manos Logothetis told AFP news agency shortly after the incident.

Riot squads were sent to quell the unrest and seven people were detained, he said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Stefan Cordes, a field coordinator on Samos with the Doctors Without Borders (MSF), confirmed the account of the incidents to Al Jazeera, putting the number of those left without shelter after the two fires at about 500.

He accused the government and the European Union of failing to take care of the migrants whose living conditions are believed to be the cause of the violence.

"They don't have access to hygiene, water or good food," Cordes told Al Jazeera. "This makes their lives really difficult. The government and the European Union don't take care of these people, who are here for a long time."

"We have to really consider that about 500 people are without shelter now and the authorities have to take care of these people and provide a space where these people can be safe", he said.



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The Samos camp is massively overcrowded, with nearly 7,000 people in a facility built to handle fewer than 650.

The Greek government had planned to relocate to the mainland more than 2,300 asylum seekers from island camps - including many elderly and ailing persons - but the operation has been delayed owing to fears of coronavirus.

An AGPS reporter said some 256 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Vathy camp have been facing squalid living conditions due to overcrowding and poor hygiene.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction. AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

