



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



### "12 Palestinian Refugees Arrested by Syrian Security Forces South of Damascus"

- Displaced Palestinian Families in Syria's Qudsaya Town Facing Abject Humanitarian Condition
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Overburdened by Visa Renewal Fees
- Disinfection Drive Held in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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## Latest Developments

Over 40 young men and women, including 12 Palestinian refugees sheltered in AlHajar ALAswad neighborhood, were rounded up in an arrest sweep launched by Syrian security forces south of Damascus.

Syrian security patrols launched the manhunt on Sunday, October 4, over allegations of searching for drug traffickers and anti-government sleeper cells (a group of operatives, spies or terrorists, living in secret among a targeted community waiting for instructions or an opportunity to act).

Local sources told AGPS that all the arrestees have recently submitted demands to return to their houses in AlHajar ALAswad neighborhood.

Along similar lines, displaced Palestinian families taking shelter in the so-called “youth housing” apartments in Qudsaya town, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring dire socio-economic conditions due to the exorbitant prices of food and non-food items along with the high rates of unemployment and acute shortage in power, water, and fuel supplies. Civilians’ life has also been marred by the transportation crisis.

House rents in the area have hit up to 100,000 Syrian Pounds. Houseowners often stipulate an advance payment of several coming months.



At the same time, the residents continue to sound the alarm over the security turmoil overwhelming the area and the heavy deployment of political security forces across residential alleyways.

In another development, thousands of Palestinian from Syria who have fled to other destinations have been unable to pay the steep fees of visa-renewal processes in the new destinations.

Renewing travel documents costs up to \$300. The applicant is required to pay \$800 if he/she expects to have travel documents renewed in no more than eight days. In most cases, applicants receive a two-year renewal.

Palestinian refugees also face difficulties trying to get in touch with Syrian consulates and embassies due to overcrowding. The situation is often made more complicated by the so-called “brokers of appointments” who have close ties with staff members at the consulate or the embassy. A meeting is sold by such parties at \$300.

In order for Palestinians from Syria to obtain visas in new destinations, a valid travel document should be acquired to that end.

Meanwhile, activists from Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees in cooperation with popular committees affiliated with Fatah Movement launched a campaign to disinfect UNRWA schools and the local mosque. Disinfectants were also sprayed across alleyways and access roads.



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Last month, two residents of the Palestinian refugee camp of Deraa tested positive for coronavirus. Both residents, members of the same family, quarantined themselves at their house.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying an urgent action is needed to save the displacement camps.

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.