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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Displaced Palestinian Families Appeal for Urgent Reconstruction of Their Houses in Yarmouk Camp

- Residents of AlRaml Camp for Palestinian Refugees Denounce Mistreatment at UNRWA Clinic
- Government of Austria Contributes EUR 4.7 Million to UNRWA
- Syria Education Ministry: School Shifts Will Not Be Changed



Latest Developments

A number of Palestinian refugee families sheltered in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, have appealed to the concerned authorities and international humanitarian organizations to help them reconstruct their ravaged houses.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, a number of families said they have been overburdened by exorbitant house rents in and around Damascus.

Recently, Walid AlKurdi, UNRWA's education chief in Yarmouk Camp paid a visit to the area and expressed deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation in the camp, where scores of family homes are left with neither doors nor windows.

In a statement posted on his Facebook page, AlKurdi sounded the alarm over the abject living conditions in Yarmouk Camp, where vulnerable Palestinian refugees and children have been left without roofs over their heads with the advent of cold weather.

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 December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

Along similar lines, residents of AlRaml Camp, in Latakia, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at the UNRWA-run clinic.

A number of patients who showed up at the facility for treatment have reportedly been mistreated by paramedics at the clinic.

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 Palestinian refugees have been facing at the UNRWA premises.

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 AlRaml Camp have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

Latakia camp is an "unofficial" camp located within the city boundaries of Latakia on the Mediterranean coast. The camp was established in 1955-1956 on an area of 0.22 square kilometers. Most of the refugees originally came from the city of Jaffa and villages in northern Palestine.

UN data indicates that before the start of conflict in 2011, the camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees. It is estimated that 2,000 Palestine refugees have left the country. The camp has been largely unaffected by the hostilities, meaning that it has become a safe haven for Palestine refugees from Aleppo, Yarmouk and other places. Currently there are 14,000 Palestine refugees living in and around Latakia.

Residents of the camp are mostly civil servants or employed in shops. Fishing also provides a small income for many refugees.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike. Increasing poverty and hardship as a direct consequence of the ongoing crisis in Syria has led to an increase of negative coping mechanisms like early marriage, child labour and drug consumption. UNRWA has increased its efforts to carry out preventative and awareness-raising activities through its schools and community centres.

Meanwhile, on October 3, the Government of Austria contributed EUR 2.7 million in support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Health Programme in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. It also supported the Agency's Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal with EUR 2 million.



Austria's generous contribution enables UNRWA to continue providing health services through 65 clinics in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The basic health system that UNRWA runs in these areas is under immense pressure due to increasing needs among Palestine refugees, high levels of poverty, increased violence in places, and COVID-19.

In addition to this support to the health programme, Austria's contribution to the UNRWA office in Syria enables the Agency to provide three months' worth of cash assistance to 30,500 people. These include female-headed households, families headed by a disabled person and people with disabilities, the elderly and unaccompanied minors. Cash assistance is a lifeline for Palestine refugees in Syria, most of them twice displaced and in acute need of support.

“Austria reiterates its firm partnership with UNRWA by increasing our long-standing support to the Health Programme in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) on one hand, as well as by renewing our support to the Syria Emergency Appeal in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria. We fully acknowledge UNRWA's role in providing critical humanitarian services to Palestine refugees.” said Ms. Astrid Wein, the Austrian Representative in Ramallah.

“On behalf of UNRWA, I would like to express my gratitude to Austria, a strong and reliable supporter to Palestine refugees and our work. This contribution will allow us to continue providing critical health services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and much needed cash to families in desperate need in war-torn Syria,” said Tamara Alrifai, the UNRWA Director of External Relations and Communications.

This year, Austria contributed EUR 6.1 million, of which EUR 400,000 to the UNRWA Programme Budget, EUR 2.7 to the Health Programme as part of the multi-year agreement and additional, EUR 1 million to the occupied Palestine territory Emergency Appeal and EUR 2 million to the Syria Emergency Appeal.



In the meantime, the Syrian Ministry of Education said it has approved the launch of the school year at all public and private kindergartens and schools.

School shifts start from 08:00 a.m.

Palestinian refugee schoolchildren and students continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the eleven-year conflict.

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 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.