



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين 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



"Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria Launch Cry for Help with Advent of Winter"

- Palestinian Refugee Families Deprived of Heating Equipment in Syria Displacement Camp
- Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees Gripped with Power Crisis
- Palestinian Refugee Families Denounce Power Blackout in AlHusainiya Camp

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Latest Developments

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in northern Syria continue to raise concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has been just around the corner.

The families continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and all other local and international bodies regarding their tragic situation.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Last year, tents have been flooded with water as torrential downpours have swamped Palestinian refugee camps in Afrin, north of Syria.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media showed dozens of tents as being swamped by rain deluges while children appear to be shivering of cold.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns. For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of



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winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

Along similar lines, as weather temperatures have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in Syria continue to struggle with multiple hardships.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa Camp, south of Syria, said they have no heating equipment except for blankets and mattresses.

The families expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes this year due to fuel dearth, as a freezing winter season is about to unlock its gates.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.

A liter of fuel is sold in the black market at over 3,000 Syrian pounds a liter.

Families barely receive 50 liters of fuel through the smart card, which has become essential in the Syrian government-held areas. With this card, a family can obtain their small but vital allocations of heating oil, gas, bread, sugar, rice, and other goods. In early 2019, the Syrian government began the smart card system, which allegedly aimed to stop monopolization of aid and provide support to those in need.



The power crisis has made the situation far worse.

At the same time, desperate for warmth, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking refuge in under-equipped camps and substandard facilities have been burning their clothes and plastic materials to stave off winter cold after they failed to afford firewood and fuel supplies. Scores of children have sustained costochondritis (chest inflammation) and bronchitis due to heavy smoke inhalation.

In the meantime, Residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the ongoing electricity blackout across residential alleyways and buildings.

The residents said electricity has been operative for no more than a couple of hours daily, urging UNRWA and the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures in order to rehabilitate the power network and carry out the required maintenance works.

The situation has been made worse by the frequent thefts of power cables from residential alleyways and access roads.

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



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(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.

Meanwhile, the General Power Company in AlSayeda Zeinab has warned against illegal electricity connections in AlHusainiya Camp, saying those involved in such practices will be subjected to heavy fines and legal penalties.

The company said ad hoc committees will be patrolling the area to identify illegal connections which have exacerbated the power crisis in the area.

Civilians having two power lines will be penalized, forced to pay all previous bills, and get their counters deactivated.



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Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.