



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



**"Activists: Palestinian Ambassador Should Make Serious Efforts to Push For Release of Syria Prisoners"**

- Palestinian Refugee Maher Msheinash Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8<sup>th</sup> Year
- Egypt Suspends Healthcare Services for Palestinians of Syria
- Cash-Strapped Palestinian Refugee in Need of Urgent Treatment
- Palestinian Families in AlSayeda Zeinab Appeal for Garbage Clearance

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian activists and families have called on the new Palestinian ambassador to Syria Samir AlRefai to assume his duties regarding over 1,800 Palestinian refugees incarcerated in the war-torn country.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, prisoners' families slammed the Palestinian Authority for turning its back on their calls for urgent action to release their relatives.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Maher Abdul Rahim Msheinash has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

Maher, born in 1986, was arrested on October 15, 2013 in Damascus as he boarded his Saipa 2006 car. He is the father of two kids.

In another development, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been denied access to healthcare services in Egypt.

Reporting from Cairo, an AGPS correspondent said services provided by UNRWA and the Egyptian Red Crescent have been suspended. Such services include surgeries at Mustafa Mahmoud Hospital in Cairo. A patient also used to receive daily coupons of 200 Egyptian pounds to purchase medicines. Those diagnosed with chronic illnesses used to receive a monthly allowance of 900 Egyptian pounds.



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The refugees called on UNRWA representative in Cairo, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and the administration of Mustafa Mahmoud Hospital to provide explanations for such inhumane measures.

The number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt has dramatically shrunk back over the past years.

An AGPS correspondent said the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

The decrease has been attributed to the mistreatment and crackdowns perpetrated against the refugees in the Egyptian territories, where they have been treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians have, thus, been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free education and healthcare, and access to the local labor market.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Abdullah Mer'i Mohamed, sheltered in a displacement camp set up in northern Syria, has been left without treatment.

Abdullah has appealed to the concerned humanitarian institutions to help him secure a sum of 5 million Syrian pounds to undergo a life-saving leg surgery.



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Thousands of displaced Palestinians and Syrians who live below the poverty line have sunk into further despair in the substandard refugee camps set up north of Syria, where conditions are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria, according to UNRWA's "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021".

UNRWA said in its fact-sheet that in Syria, the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.

In 2020, living conditions deteriorated further as a result of an economic crisis, leading to an increase in prices, including of the most basic commodities.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

In the meantime, residents of AlSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have voiced deep concern over the health hazards inflicted by the trash mounds piled up across residential alleyways and the standing wastewater flooding the main access roads.



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The residents said garbage piles have resulted in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and insects.

Civilians have appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate action in order to clear garbage.

All the way through the ten-year Syrian conflict, Palestinians taking refuge in AlSayeda Zeinab camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.