



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

06-11-2020

No. 2936

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Subjected to Crackdowns in Southern Damascus"

- Union of Palestinian Engineers Launch Volunteer Initiative to Reconstruct Yarmouk Camp
- Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees in Syria Gripped with Sanitation Crisis
- Palestinian Refugees Distressed as Greece Slaps Anti-Coronavirus Lockdown
- Bread Distributed to Palestinian Families from Syria in Lebanon

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus are living in distress due to the arbitrary arrest sweeps and crackdowns perpetuated by the Syrian security forces.

Palestinian refugees have been subjected to movement crackdowns and denied free access out of and into southern Damascus towns.

Over 5,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus have been grappling with dire conditions due to the price leap, steep rental fees, and forced military conscription with pro-government forces.

Along similar lines, the Association of Palestinian Engineers in Syria has launched an initiative to help reconstruct Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

In a statement, the Association said it has begun writing down names of engineers who have expressed their willingness to take part in volunteer drives seeking to rehabilitate buildings, vital facilities, and infrastructure in Yarmouk Camp.

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

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.



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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.

In another development, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees in Rif Dimashq continue to rail against poor sanitation networks and improper sewage disposal.

The displaced families warned of the life-threatening diseases wrought by the unpleasant smells stemming from contaminated sewage poured near their refugee camp. Frequent power outage has added bad to worse.

Over recent years, residents of Jaramana Camp have launched cries for help over the dire socio-economic conditions, high unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, steep rental fees, and chronic water crisis rocking the area.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees and other asylum seekers taking shelter in migrant facilities set up on Greek islands have voiced deep concern over their abject humanitarian condition as Greece ordered a nationwide lockdown on Thursday for three weeks to help contain a resurgence of Covid-19 cases, its second this year after a sharp increase in infections this week.

“I’ve chosen to take drastic measures sooner rather than later,” Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.



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Although having previously said a nationwide lockdown was a last option, Mitsotakis said he was forced to act after a spike in cases in the past five days, saying that without a lockdown the pressure on the healthcare system would be “unbearable.”

Under the new countrywide restrictions to take effect from Saturday, retail businesses will be shut with the exception of supermarkets and pharmacies. Greeks will need a permit to venture outdoors at allocated times. Primary schools will stay open, but high schools will shut.

The country has reported fewer cases than most in Europe, mainly due to an early nationwide lockdown it imposed when the pandemic broke out in February. It started unwinding those restrictions in May.

According to the UNHCR, the total number of asylum seekers in Greece is approximately 120,000.

Greece is a gateway for refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and beyond, with more than one million having passed through the country in 2015 and 2016.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees and other migrants are stuck in overcrowded refugee camps in conditions aid organizations say are appalling and which the government itself has described as a “ticking health bomb”.



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In the meantime, the Civil Committee for Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon's western and central AlBekaa region distributed 200 bread packs to displaced Palestinian families from Syria.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.