



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



### "Resident of Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria Dies of Coronavirus"

- Coronavirus-Stricken Palestinian Refugee in Syria Denounces Bullying
- Anti-Coronavirus Drive Held in Khan Dannun Refugee Camp
- Palestinian Women in Syria Produce Face Masks
- Palestinians in Hama Camp Rail Against Water Crisis

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## Latest developments

Palestinian refugee Mohamed Kheir Mousa Diab has died of coronavirus in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, in Syria.

Activists said COVID-19 symptoms, including high fever and breathing disorders, figured on the victim's body, but he has been denied admission into a hospital.

Local sources said a number of confirmed coronavirus cases have been recorded in Khan Eshieh Camp.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After eight years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Survival for the majority of Palestinian families in war-stricken Syria has largely hinged on relief assistance. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Along similar line, Palestinian refugee Ahmad AlNatour said he has been subjected to bullying in AlNeirab displacement camp, in Aleppo, after he contracted coronavirus.

Natour said on his facebook page that he has been intimidated by people around him due to his infection.



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Discrimination and bullying are a rising cause for concern in Palestinian refugee camps, as the COVID-19 pandemic places the camps on lockdown.

Bullying is the use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. It is a form of aggressive behavior intended to hurt another individual, physically, mentally, or emotionally. Bullying is characterized by hostile intent, imbalance of power, and repetition over a period of time. It ranges from one-on-one, individual bullying through to group bullying, called mobbing.

Along similar lines, activists from Khan Dannun camp have launched a campaign to respond to coronavirus outbreak.

A volunteer said the campaign aims to prevent the spread of the lethal virus among the camp residents.

A resident told AGPS that coronavirus has been spreading quickly in the camp, saying at least four people have succumbed to the disease over the past four days.

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 (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.



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The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were live 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. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage laborers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.

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. Two UNRWA school premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.

In the meantime, 19 Palestinian refugee women and girls have been producing face masks at a UNRWA community center in Rif Dimashq province.

UNRWA said the refugees attended sewing courses at the Agency's centers and produced 1,130 masks that will be distributed to volunteers and refugees to help curtail the spread of coronavirus.

In the meantime, residents of AlAyedeen camp in Hama have denounced the frequent water blackouts in the area and called for an urgent action by the concerned authorities.



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A resident told AGPS that most of civilian homes have run out of potable water. Water wells have also repeatedly gone out of operation due to frequent power outages.

Palestinians taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hama have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, absence of stable financial resources, the sharp shortage in fuel supplies, frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance.

High rates of unemployment, the security turmoil rocking the region, and the arbitrary arrest sweeps launched by the Syrian security forces have made the situation far worse.