



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي 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



"Residents of Khan Dannun Refugee Camp Denounce Absence of Vital Services"

- Water Crisis Ongoing in Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Rotten Meat Spotted in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- Number of Migrants to Greece See 93% Decrease from Last Year

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Latest developments

Residents of Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees, located some 23 kilometers south of Damascus, continue to denounce the absence of much-needed services, particularly healthcare, in the poverty-stricken area.

The situation is exacerbated by the chronic power blackouts and the acute dearth in potable water supplies.

The residents slammed the concerned authorities and municipality over their indifference regarding their appeals for the urgent reconstruction of infrastructure and rehabilitation of vital facilities.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun camp have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has made life difficult in the camp.

Upon more than once occasion, civilians have railed against the mounds of trash and debris piled up in civilian neighborhoods and around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

UN data indicates that Khan Dunoun camp lies near the ruins of Khan Dunoun, which 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 provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.



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The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometres. 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, Khan Dunoun was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage labourers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.

The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups (AOGs) 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 schools 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.

Along similar lines, Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, said water has been cut off across residential neighborhoods for several days.

The residents have warned of the repercussions of the water crisis on their children's health condition in light of the global propagation of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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An AGPS reporter said most of the families sheltered in the camp are cash-stripped and cannot afford to buy drinking water from privately-owned tanks.

Palestinian families continue to appeal to UNRWA and the concerned authorities to take urgent action regarding the alarming humanitarian condition in the camp.

Meanwhile, the Health Affairs Directorate in Hums seized large quantities of spoiled meat that are unfit for human consumption in two butcher shops in AlAyedeen camp for Palestinian refugees.

Health inspectors seized over three tons of rotten meat and another 300 kilograms of spoiled guts with foul odors and worms in AlAyedeen camp, in Hums.

The directorate staff disposed of the seized meat and disinfected the butcher shops and the street. The two shops received a three-month closure penalty, pending the necessary legal action.

In the meantime, the Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum said the number of migrants and asylum seekers has dropped by 93% in 2020. No more than 765 asylum seekers arrived in Greece since the start of 2020, down from 10,572 in 2019.

Palestinian refugees and other migrants have been subjected to a dire humanitarian situation in migrant camps and other substandard facilities set up in Greece, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone.



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Over recent months, Greece's refugee camps have been running at four or five times their capacities, with tens of thousands of migrants crammed into poorly-equipped tents.

Recently, the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) and Oxfam have warned that the new Greek asylum system is designed to deport people rather than offer them safety and protection.

According to GCR and Oxfam, this means that people who have fled violence and persecution have little chance of a fair asylum procedure, and even families with children are regularly detained in inhumane conditions.

In the report 'Diminished, Derogated, Denied', published on July 1, the organisations showed how the reformed Greek asylum law, which entered into force on 1 January 2020 and was later amended in May, exposed people to abuse and exploitation.

The situation is further aggravated by the inhumane living conditions in Greece's refugee camps where people are now at risk of a devastating health crisis should COVID-19 reach the camps.

The organisations' analysis found that many particularly vulnerable people – such as children, pregnant women and people with disabilities – have been detained upon arrival on the 'hotspot' islands, without sufficient access to necessary care or protection. The asylum system also makes it extremely difficult for people seeking asylum to properly present their reasons for fleeing their home countries, like conflict or persecution, to the Greek asylum service.



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Over the past months, during the COVID-19 lockdown, there has been a worrying increase in cases of sexual harassments and reports of rape, and of domestic violence in Greek camps.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece. Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter on Greek islands.