



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

07-10-2020

No. 2906

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Refugees Push for UN Investigation into UNRWA Aid Distribution Mechanism in Jordan"

- 840 Palestinian Refugees Pursue Studies at Damascus Training Centre
- PLA Facebook Page Blocked for 3<sup>rd</sup> Time
- Palestinian Girl Protests Hijab-Wearing Ban in Swedish City

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## Latest Developments

Over 50 Palestinian refugee families from Syria in Jordan have called for an urgent financial probe by the United Nations (UN) into UNRWA's distribution of cash aid allotted to Palestinians from Syria in Jordan.

In letters emailed to AGPS, the families spoke out against the apathy maintained by UNRWA staff in Jordan regarding their appeals for urgent and increasing cash aid, slamming the Agency's staff member in charge of their file of discrimination and lack of transparency.

They further denounced the vulnerability assessment mechanisms implemented by the Agency's field researcher who determines eligibility criteria following field visits paid to the refugee families.

The refugees also said that a number of UNRWA staff members have been misappropriating refugees' cash grants and that some deceased persons' allowances continue to be mysteriously shelved out.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624



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PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

In another development, some 840 Palestinian refugee students have started their academic year at the UNRWA-run Damascus Training Centre (DTC).

Students attend semi-professional on-site courses three days per week and study remotely for the rest of the week due to coronavirus concerns.

UNRWA has been able to provide vocational training opportunities for hundreds of Palestine refugees in Syria. Vocational training has proven to be a vital lifeline in a region deeply affected by the conflict in Syria, which in 2020 has entered its ninth year.



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UNRWA also said that its vocational centers play an active role in ensuring that their graduates find employment once they graduate. One of the most successful ways to ensure this is to offer on-the job training.

Vocational training courses include mechatronics, air-conditioning (AC) maintenance, sewing, computer maintenance, plumbing, and car electricity, along with medical, information, and engineering specialties.

Meanwhile, Facebook administration blocked the so-called “Administration of political and moral guidance” of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime, for the third time running.

The page covers news materials about military trainings and attacks targeting opposition sites in the war-ravaged country. It further posts calls for military conscription and fighting alongside the Syrian regime.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.



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Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

In the meantime, Palestinian girl Maya Abu AlAla has worn Hijab (Islamic veil) as a protest move against Swedish city of Skurup after it approved a bill banning "all forms of Muslim headgear" in primary schools and preschools.

The ban - which was passed in December - affects Muslim women who wear headscarves, burqas, and niqabs.

Backed by liberal-conservative Moderates and the local Skurup party, the ban was initiated and passed through the municipal government in a vote of 22 positive to 19.

The motion has been widely criticized among the local community and around 200 people gathered to protest it outside the town hall on Monday. However, they were met with counter-protests where people chanted hateful slogans including "Close Islam" and other phrases like "Freedom for Swedes."

Today, Muslim communities amount to 8.1 percent of Sweden's total population. Around 800,000 people of the faith call the country their home, according to Pew Research Center.

Though Sweden does not enforce a headscarf ban on a national level, some municipalities across the country have been taking it upon themselves to impose them.