



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



### "Family of Murdered Palestinian Boy Points Finger at German Youth Centre"

- Palestinian Families in AISabina Camp Facing Squalid Humanitarian Condition
- Residents of Jaramana Camp Lash Out at UNRWA Staff
- Palestinian Refugee Hasan Layla Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8<sup>th</sup> Year

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## Latest Developments

The family of Palestinian refugee boy Mohamed Amaryi, who was fatally stabbed in Berlin on October 31, 2020 held the Children and Youth Department partly responsible for the murder, saying the boy left the centre at midnight while unaccompanied by staffers.

Mohamed's mother said her son suffered severe trauma inflicted by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction he had witnessed in war-torn Syria, before he fled with his family to Germany.

Mohamed joined a youth centre in Berlin where his family hoped he would be healed from trauma.

The child was fatally stabbed to death by a 40-year-old man in Berlin. No statement was released by the Youth Centre as regards the crime.

The victim was born and raised in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, before he fled to Germany with his parents.

In another development, Palestinians taking refuge in AlSabina camp, in Rif Dimashq, have sounded the alarm over their abject condition as a cold winter season has drawn near.

No more than 200 liters of subsidized fuel have reportedly been made available in the area.

A liter of subsidized fuel costs 180 Syrian pounds and is sold in the black market at a price of up to 250 pounds.



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The situation is worsened by the water/power crisis rocking the area amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Civilians said they are unable to wash their hands and bodies regularly, raising fears of a swift propagation of the deadly virus among the camp residents.

The residents continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the local municipality regarding their calls for supplying the area with power generators and filling main water tanks.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like



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other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana camp have denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by UNRWA staff members during the aid distribution process.

The residents said scores of Palestinian refugees, including elderly people, have to line up for hours in order to receive their cash grants. Scores of other refugees have not had their allowances transferred.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.



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Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Hasan Ziad Leyla has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian state prisons for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Hasan was kidnapped by Syrian security forces from AlKastal School in Yarmouk Camp. His condition and whereabouts remain unknown.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or



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Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

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.



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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.