



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

08-02-2021

No. 3130

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



UNRWA
الاونروا

"Dozens of Palestinians from Syria Laid Off by UNRWA"

- Palestinian Refugees in Jordan Appeal for Healthcare Services
- Liwaa AlQuds Holds Mass-Funeral for Palestinians Killed in War-Torn Syria
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Amer Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for 8th Year
- Migrants Complain of Skin Infections on Greek Island

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Latest Developments

UNRWA has suspended the contracts of dozens of part-time and day laborers recruited since the start of the conflict in Syria due to funding deficit.

A laid-off staffer told AGPS that the measure will make the situation of Palestinian refugee families in Syria worse as the Agency serves as the sole source of income to the refugees.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have lost their jobs in the warfare and hundreds more have been wondering in the streets as they rummage around for livelihoods to feed their starved families.

The crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of the 540,000 PRS are unable to meet their basic needs.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.



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Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

UNRWA said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 PRS are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Hundreds of PRS also have risked their lives onboard “death-boats” bound for Europe, fleeing prosecution and economic hardship.

Along similar lines, Palestinian activists and refugees launched calls for enhancing access to healthcare services among Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan.

The refugees denounced the complicated red tape slapped by government-run hospitals and health centres across the Jordanian territories.

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.



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Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 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, Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian regime, held a funeral for 46 of its members, including Palestinian refugees, whose bodies were removed from the debris piled up in AlZahira neighborhood, in Aleppo.

The victims died on May 3, 2016 in a tunnel blast west of Aleppo city.

The list of victims includes Palestinian refugees Mohamed Reda Samara, from AlNeirab camp, and Ibrahim Ahmad Ali, from Handarat refugee camp.



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Calls continue to be circulated by Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian government forces, to push for military conscription.

Activists have accused the armed group of forcing Palestinian youths taking shelter in refugee camps across Syria to join pro-government military squads, taking profit from their dire economic conditions.

Nearly 10,000 gunmen are enlisted at Liwaa AlQuds brigade, among them 800 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in refugee camps across the Syrian territories.

AGPS kept record of the death of over 90 Palestinian refugees as they fought alongside Liwaa AlQuds forces since 2013.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Husain Amer has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

Mohamed was arrested by the Syrian security forces on February 14, 2013, near the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp. His condition and whereabouts could not be identified.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.



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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 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.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

In the meantime, activists have warned of the spread of skin diseases and scabies among migrants taking shelter in Kara Tepe camp, located about 2.5 km to the north of Mytilene, the capital of the island of Lesbos.

Greek authorities have reportedly prevented activists from publishing live photos from the camp.

Palestinian refugees and other migrants have been subjected to a dire humanitarian situation in migrant camps and other



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substandard facilities set up in Greece, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone.

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.

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.