



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



"Palestinian Refugee Student Earns Highest Score at High School"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Sound Distress Signals as Coronavirus Cases Go Up
- UN Appoints Deputy Chief of Palestine Refugee Agency
- 3 Palestinian Brothers Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't

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Latest developments

Palestinian girl Israa Mohamed AlRefa'i, raised in Yarmouk displacement camp, in Damascus, has received the highest score (3100/3100) as part of 9th grade exams at Mahmoud Yousef Issa alternative school.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian refugees have achieved success stories, despite of the traumatic upshots wrought by daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories. Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The conflict in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

In another development, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Damascus, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.



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The Health Ministry's coronavirus team said wearing face masks and respecting social distancing has become an obligation at commercial centers and public facilities. Those who violate such orders will have to pay a fine of 8,000 Syrian pounds.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 18 June 2020 the appointment of Leni Stenseth of Norway as Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

Currently Norwegian Ambassador to Lebanon, Stenseth brings to the position nearly twenty years of experience in international politics, humanitarian action and crisis management, fifteen of which were in leadership positions with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Red Cross.



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Prior to her role as Norwegian Ambassador to Lebanon, Stenseth held the post of Director of Humanitarian Affairs with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2016 to 2019, during which time she also served first as a Member, then as Chair of United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Advisory Group.

From 2013 to 2016 she was the Director of United Nations Affairs with overall responsibility for Norway's United Nations policy related to peace and security and sustainable development, as well as policy on Gender equality, while also managing Norway's financial support to the United Nations Funds and Programmes.

From 2008 to 2013, she held a number of senior roles with the Norwegian Red Cross. Prior to that, she served as a diplomat at the Norwegian Embassies in Amman and Washington D.C. She also worked as a researcher with FAFO Institute for Applied International Studies in 2000.

Stenseth holds a Bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science and a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Oslo, Norway. She is married and has two children.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human



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development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

In the meantime, three Palestinian brothers have been secretly locked up in Syrian government jails for the 8th year running. Two of them turned themselves in to the Syrian authorities after the pro-government Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)--General Command (GC) pledged to work out their situation.

Samir Barnawi was arrested on September 20, 2012, after PFLP-GC turned him in to the government forces. He had served as the commander of an opposition squad in ALTadhamun area, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.

Fadi Barnawi was arrested on the same day. Their brother Shadi was kidnapped from Yarmouk Camp in October 2012.

Several Palestinian relatives and members of the same family have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government dungeons, where others have also been tortured to death.

AGPS documented the secret imprisonment of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government dungeons, where dozens of others have also been fatally tortured.