



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



### "Damascus Governor Pays Visit to Yarmouk Camp"

- Palestinian Student Israa Refai' Honored by NRWA Chief
- Palestinian Refugee Woman Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 5<sup>th</sup> Year
- Cash Aid Transferred to Palestinians from Syria in Jordan
- UK Pledges \$20.7m in Additional Aid to UNRWA

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## Latest Developments

Damascus Governor Adel Aleibi accompanied by Syrian and Palestinian officials toured Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

Palestinian officials said the Governor greenlighted the entry of buses to the camp in the next few days.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

In another development, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini honored the Palestinian girl Israa Mohamed AlRefai', raised in Yarmouk Camp, after she garnered the highest score in Syria in her 9<sup>th</sup> grade exams.

"I am very proud to present an award to Israa and express my appreciation for her hard work. Despite the harsh living conditions and severity of the displacement compounded with COVID-19, you



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have demonstrated exceptional determination to keep studying,” said Lazzarini, as he handed her a reward from the Agency.

The UNRWA chief also praised the teaching staff for working tirelessly to provide quality education and supporting Palestinian refugee students amid COVID-19.

Along similar lines, UNRWA has transferred cash aid to Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan.

Every registered family member received a cash grant of 70 Jordanian dinars.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said PRS in Jordan continue to be exposed to a number of protection issues. Those without Jordanian documents who have entered from Syria and remained in Jordan irregularly are particularly vulnerable. They live under continuous risk of arrest, detention and potential forced return to Syria.

Following years of protracted displacement, many PRS have exhausted their coping mechanisms and rely on relief assistance to cover their basic needs.

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.

A post-distribution monitoring exercise (PDM), conducted by UNRWA in August 2019 to collect feedback on the cash assistance program, revealed that 35 per cent of PRS respondents used UNRWA cash assistance to pay for rent, 15 per cent used it to cover food needs, 15 per cent to repay a debt, 11 per cent paid water and electricity bills and 24 per cent utilized cash for other priorities like health, transportation, clothing, etc.

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 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.

Meanwhile, the UK has announced an additional \$20.7 million in funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for



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Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), bringing the total UK support for the agency this year to \$66 million.

The British Consulate General in Jerusalem announced in a statement on Thursday that the British support package will contribute to providing education to more than 533,000 children, half of whom are girls, and providing healthcare services to around 3.5 million Palestinian refugees across the Middle East.

"It will also provide emergency food supplies to more than one million refugees in Gaza," according to the statement.

The statement noted that UNRWA provides protection and support to Palestinian refugees throughout the region, so \$7.8 million of the declared total amount (\$20.7 million) will be allocated to help save the lives of 438,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria.

The statement explained that the UK is one of UNRWA's largest donors, and will continue to support and assist the agency with its mandate until a just, fair and realistic settlement is found for the Palestinian refugees.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Bayan Jumu'a, aged 19, has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian prisons for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Bayan was arrested on March 17, 2015 at Palestine Street checkpoint in Yarmouk Camp as she headed for an aid distribution center to get relief items.



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AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian prisons, among them 110 women and girls.