



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Elderly Palestinian Refugee Says Her Grandchildren Are Abused in Sweden"

- Activists Call On Displaced Families to Return to Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Denounce Mistreatment at UNRWA Clinic
- Directorate of Palestinian Refugees Established in Northern Syria

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Alyaa Darwish, the grandmother of four girls and a boy who “have been taken away from their family”, said her grandchildren are being subjected to “persecution, ill-treatment, repression, and sexual harassment by their host families in Sweden”.

Alyaa said the Swedish Social Services Administration took away her grandchildren some four years ago and without prior notice on claims of family problems and neglect, which has been denied by Alyaa. She confirmed that her grandchildren had an ordinary and stable life with their families.

The grandmother said the family’ appeals to the social services authority to allow the children to bid last farewell to their grandfather had gone unheeded. The family has not seen their youngest child for four years.

According to Alyaa, her grandchildren attempted several times to flee their host families due to mistreatment, before they were caught by policemen who broke into their grandmother’s house and returned them back to the host families by force.

Alyaa also appealed to the Swedish authorities to launch special courses in order to update migrant families and asylum seekers about childhood-related laws and regulations.



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In another development, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp to submit more demands for entry permits to Yarmouk Camp in order to retrieve their property.

A number of residents said they are unable to return to the camp and reconstruct their houses after they lost their livelihoods and got their belongings and furniture stolen from the abandoned camp.

A resident said a trust fund should be established by trusted parties in order to raise funds for house reconstruction in the camp.

Activists urged Palestinian political factions to mobilize volunteers and professionals to actively contribute in bringing life back to normal in the camp beyond political calculations.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry



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out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In the meantime, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at the UNRWA-run clinic in the camp.

A number of residents leveled heavy criticism at the dentist working in the clinic, saying he has been mistreating patients showing up at the facility.

Local sources inside the camp said the dentist refused to provide medical treatment to a child who suffered severe toothaches. He scheduled a medical appointment for the child after 15 days. “I can do nothing for you”, the doctor told the child’s father.

Local activists have urged the UN refugee agency, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and all other concerned authorities to take immediate action in response to the mistreatment they have been facing at the UNRWA clinic.

In a statement emailed to AGPS, the residents slammed the medical staff at the clinic for their apathy regarding the appeals of



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a number of patients for much-needed treatment and medicines, along with psychological support.

Living conditions in Jaramana Camp have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

In another development, the Syrian Interim Government, an alternative government in Syria, formed by the umbrella opposition group, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, established the Directorate of Palestinian Affairs to follow up on the situation of Palestinian refugee families in northern Syrian displacement camps.

The directorate is located in the interim government's headquarters, in the city of Azaz in Aleppo Governorate.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.