



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

09-03-2022

No. 3523

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



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"82% of Palestinian Refugees in Syria Live on Less than 2 USD"

- Palestinian Refugee Women Struggle with Multiple Hardships in Syria
- Palestinian Refugees in Egypt Denounce Mistreatment by UNRWA Staff
- Turkey Denies Banning Tourist Visas for New Comers
- Palestinian Refugee Child Wins 3rd Place at Syria Karate Championship

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Latest Developments

The protracted consequences of the Syria crisis, coupled with the socio-economic deterioration and the impacts of COVID-19, continue to pose grave humanitarian challenges to Palestine refugees.

Localized active fighting in Syria continued in 2022, including in and around Palestinian refugee camps, causing the displacement of thousands of Palestinians and Syrians.

Despite the overall reduction in hostilities, insecurity continues to affect the Palestine refugee community. This situation has not improved in 2022.

According to UNRWA estimates, around 40 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria remain in protracted displacement.

The risk posed to civilians by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in areas that witnessed active conflict in the past, including some Palestine refugee camps, remains high.

The deteriorating Syrian economy and rising inflation is giving rise to a real threat of hunger. A drastic loss of purchasing power has increased fears amongst the population, including Palestine refugees, about their ability to meet their basic needs, in particular food.

An UNRWA survey found that 82 per cent of the refugees interviewed now live on less than US\$ 1.9 a day and that 48 per



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cent of total household expenditure was spent on food, indicating severe distress within families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed increased hardship on the entire community, affecting Palestine refugees' income and livelihood opportunities.

A decade of crisis has undermined the social fabric that held refugee communities and the wider Syrian society together and pre-existing family and community-level support for women and girls is no longer guaranteed.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee women in Syria are among the most vulnerable groups in the war-ravaged country.

Protracted displacement and an unabated COVID-19 outbreak, along with the absence of vital services and psychological support initiatives have added to the torment already experienced by Palestinian women for over a decade.

According to UNRWA records, female Palestine refugees account for 60 per cent of the most vulnerable Palestine refugee caseload in Syria.

Many women have been their families' sole breadwinners despite their critical health condition and the severe illnesses they suffer.

Thousands of them have been displaced from such refugee camps as Yarmouk and Khan Eshieh to northern Syria, where they have been struggling for survival in impoverished refugee tents and denied access to life-saving healthcare services.



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AGPS has documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian women and the enforced disappearance of several others in the embattled Syrian territories.

AGPS data indicates that as many as 487 Palestinian women and girls have died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict.

At the same time, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 110 Palestinian women and girls in Syria's government prisons.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

Several women have also gone homeless or widowed after they lost their husbands and/or children in the war or due to torture.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.



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A number of refugees said UNRWA liaison office in Cairo continues to turn its back on their calls for cash and in-kind assistance.

A PRS family in Egypt told AGPS that they recently contacted UNRWA office to enquire about the reasons for the delay of aid distribution and were told that food parcels were delivered to a number of families sometime earlier and that other families will be receiving their portions sometime soon.

According to the family, only 25 families out of 28,000 registered PRS families received UNRWA aid.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt continue to call on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aid, amid the economic hardship inflicted by COVID-19 outbreak in the Sissi-led country.

The refugees have slammed UNRWA for dragging its feet over their calls for help on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a volatile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.



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AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aid, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

Meanwhile, the Communication Centre for Foreigners in Turkey (YIMER) denied reports that Turkey has suspended granting touristic visas to foreigners, including newcomers from Syria who entered Turkey after February 10.

The centre said that the Turkish migration authority decided starting February 10 to examine all applications for temporary and touristic visas.

Every visa is examined according to its period and purpose. Visas with unidentified or invalid reasons will be rejected.

Recently, reports have emerged on Turkey's decision to ban touristic visas for newcomers.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee child Sima Mohamed Gharib, born and raised in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, won the third place in the Syrian Club Karate Championship held in Damascus.

Last month, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Mufeed Diab, born and raised in AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees, won the gold medal at the Karate contest held in AlJalaa Club, in Damascus.



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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.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.