



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 Killed by Shrapnel in Aleppo"

- Humanitarian Situation in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Exacerbated by Anti-Coronavirus Lockdown
- Palestinians from Syria in Gaza Denounce UNRWA Apathy
- UNRWA to Hand Over Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon

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Latest Developments

Palestinian minor Idris Khaled Idris, aged 13, was accidentally killed as he played with his friend's gun in AlFurqan, in Aleppo.

Idris is a resident of Aleppo's AlNeirab refugee camp.

Over recent years, civilians taking shelter in AlNeirab camp denounced the unrestrained flow of arms among pro-government militias.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed. With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike. The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.



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Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Along similar lines, the lockdown measures imposed as part of the anti-coronavirus battle has made the situation in AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees far worse.

The residents said trucks bringing vegetables and food items from Damascus have been denied entry into the camp. At the same time, the main entrance to the area has been blocked.

Food items exclusively sold in the area by the Syrian Commerce Company do not meet the needs of some 400,000 civilians taking refuge in the area.

All the way through Syria's nine-year war, AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, held by the Syrian government forces and their affiliated popular committees, has been gripped with dire socio-economic conditions as a result of the high rates of unemployment. Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.



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Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

In another development, the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Gaza said a UNRWA representative in Gaza told them, following a meeting in the enclave, that the Agency has not taken any new decisions regarding the Palestinian returnees from Syria to Gaza.

Recently, UNRWA had requested to convene a meeting with the committee representatives on Thursday, May 7, after the committee refused to delay a vigil slated to be held outside of the Agency's head office.

Sometime earlier, UNRWA pledged to respond to the refugees' demands in the enclave and to work on securing humanitarian grants for them.

The Follow-Up Committee held UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization responsible for the deteriorating humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees who returned from Syria to Gaza.



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Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees say they have been deprived of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.



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Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said cash grants will be distributed as of May 14, 2020 to registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees from Syria will receive cash grants for the months of April and May, with an estimated sum of at least 600,000 Lebanese pounds per every family for the two months. A food allowance of 150,000 Lebanese pounds will be handed over to every registered refugee for the same period.

Over recent months, Palestinian refugees from Syria have frequently rallied outside of UNRWA offices in Lebanon to protest the Agency's reluctance regarding their appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance.

The refugees continue to call on UNRWA to take up its humanitarian and moral duties and to transfer their cash grants in US dollars and on time, in light of the economic hardship inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.



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In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.