



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



"Yarmouk Camp in Syria Still Suffering from Heavy Toll of Regime Blockade"

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Appeal for Vital Services
- UNRWA Announces Additional Cash Aid for PRS in Lebanon
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Rally Outside of UNRWA Office in Beirut

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Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of 204 Palestinian refugees due to malnutrition and medical neglect as a result of the tough siege slapped a few years earlier by the Syrian regime on Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

The camp continues to grapple with the devastating consequences of the attacks and air strikes launched by the Syrian regime forces and their Russian partners using explosive barrels, missiles, and internationally-prohibited munitions.

As over 3,000 civilians has remained trapped in the camp, the health situation had gone sharply downhill. Hundreds of civilian residents sustained life-threatening diseases. All hospitals and clinics in the camp, except for the under-equipped Palestine Hospital, have gone out of operation due to the acute shortage in medical stuff and specialized practitioners as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the regime army and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC) for several months in a row.

In a report issued in March 2014, Amnesty International revealed that war crimes and crimes against humanity had been carried out on Palestinian and Syrian civilians in Yarmouk, on the outskirts of Damascus, which was under brutal siege by Syrian government forces.



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The report, “Squeezing the life out of Yarmouk: War crimes against besieged civilians”, published ahead of the third anniversary of the crisis in Syria, highlighted the deaths of nearly 200 individuals since the siege was tightened in July 2013 and access to crucial food and medical supplies was cut off. According to Amnesty International’s research, 128 of those who had died starved to death in the catastrophic humanitarian crisis that had emerged.

“Life in Yarmouk has grown increasingly unbearable for desperate civilians who find themselves starving and trapped in a downward cycle of suffering with no means of escape,” said Philip Luther, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International. “Civilians of Yarmouk are being treated like pawns in a deadly game in which they have no control.”

The report highlighted that government forces and their allies had repeatedly carried out attacks, including air raids and shelling with heavy weapons, on civilian buildings such as schools, hospitals and a mosque in Yarmouk. Some of the areas attacked had served as shelters for people who had been internally displaced by the conflict. Doctors and medical staff had also been targeted.

“Launching indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, leading to deaths and injuries, is a war crime. To repeatedly strike a heavily populated area, where the civilians have no means of escape, demonstrates a ruthless attitude and a callous disregard for the most basic principles of international humanitarian law,” said Philip Luther.



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At least 60 per cent of those remaining in Yarmouk were said to be suffering from malnutrition. Residents told Amnesty International they had not eaten fruit or vegetables for many months. Prices had skyrocketed with a kilo of rice costing up to US\$100.

“Syrian forces are committing war crimes by using starvation of civilians as a weapon of war. The harrowing accounts of families having to resort to eating cats and dogs, and civilians attacked by snipers as they forage for food, have become all too familiar details of the horror story that has materialized in Yarmouk,” said Philip Luther.

Reports had emerged of women dying in childbirth. Children and the elderly have suffered the most. Eighteen children including babies had died. Complications had also arisen from residents eating inedible or poisonous plants and dog meat.

Along similar lines, families who returned to Yarmouk Camp have called on Syrian authorities to rehabilitate vital facilities in an area where most public amenities have gone out of operation.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk’s families have lived on sporadic aid handed over to them by UNRWA.



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Civilians continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to speed up reconstruction works and rehabilitate infrastructure, including water and power networks.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area. Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In another development, UNRWA announced a new batch of cash aid for Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon.

In a statement issued on January 10, 2022, UNRWA said every registered PRS will receive an additional sum of 75\$ to be shelled out in February through LibanPost.

The Agency said funds were raised following emergency appeals launched to that end and pledged to pay a similar sum in the near future.



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Meanwhile, dozens of displaced Palestinian families from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon held a vigil outside of UNRWA headquarters in Beirut, protesting the latest decision by the Agency to cut shelter and food grants for PRS and pay a monthly sum of 25\$ instead.

The refugees have called on UNRWA to take urgent action in response to the dire socio-economic condition and abject poverty they have been grappling with in the Lebanese territories.

Starting 2022, UNRWA decided that multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered family be reduced to 25 USD per person, resulting in further despair for PRS.

Some 27,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought refuge in Lebanon, where they have been enduring exacerbated living conditions and subjected to a precarious legal status.