



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

10-03-2021

No. 3156

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"Activists Launch Legal Move against Sweden over Asylum Seeking Applications"**

- Palestinians from Syria Rally Outside of Gaza Office
- Humanitarian Situation in AlNeirab Camp Exacerbated by Transportation Crisis
- Suspected Coronavirus Cases Reported in Jaramana Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Ahmad Jalil Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8<sup>th</sup> Year

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## Latest Developments

The Association of Refugees' Rights in Sweden has initiated a legal action against the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in response to the latter's apathy regarding Palestinian refugees who have been denied asylum in Sweden.

The statement said a memorandum will be passed on by lawyers and human rights activists to the UNHCR to speak up for Palestinians whose asylum applications have been turned down.

Over recent months, the Swedish Migration Agency has turned down applications for humanitarian asylum by Palestinian refugees fleeing Damascus, claiming the city is a secure zone and the refugees can safely return to it.

A number of Palestinian refugees told AGPS that the Swedish migration authorities turned down their applications for visas which they had submitted in 2019.

A refugee said he had appealed the Agency's decision, saying his family had been chased down by the Syrian security forces and once they return to Damascus they will be arrested.

Human rights activists said Sweden no longer considers Syria an unsafe place for refugees. In order for visa applications to be accepted, the refugee should provide proofs of personal threats.

Last year, a new debate was opened by the migration committee at the Swedish parliament to determine post-coronavirus migration policy in the kingdom. The proposed draft law seeks to replace the



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temporary asylum law that will remain into effect until next summer.

Official Swedish statistics indicate that 3,296 Palestinian asylum-seekers categorized as “stateless” received citizenship documents in Sweden in 2019.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees from Syria joined a vigil held outside of the headquarters of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza to push for urgent humanitarian action regarding the squalid situation in the besieged enclave.

Sometime earlier, Director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, Mathias Schemale promised to increase efforts in order to tone down the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by Palestinian refugees who returned from Syria to the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Schemale promised to reach out to donor parties in order to help construct housing units for Palestinian refugees from Syria in the besieged enclave and to secure rental allowances to the displaced families.

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.



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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.

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, residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo continue to launch cries for help over the transportation



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crisis, saying workers and students have also had difficulties getting to their workplaces and universities.

The residents continue to speak out against the steep and unfixed transportation fees, often devouring up to a quarter of their salaries. Civilians are often forced to catch another means of transportation as bus drivers change the lines, stops, and fees according to their whims. Others have found no other way-out than to walk for thousands of meters in order to reach their workplaces.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees called on administrations of UNRWA-run schools to reveal the real number of coronavirus cases among students and teaching staff.

The residents continue to speak out against the absence of anti-coronavirus drives in the area, saying no measures have been implemented at schools and public facilities to protect civilians and prevent further contaminations. Schoolchildren are seen in crowds outside of their schools, most of them without masks.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying urgent action is needed to save the displacement camps.



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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Ahmad Diab Jalil, aged 30, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government lock-up for the eighth year running.

Ahmad, a student of Chemistry at Damascus University, was kidnapped by pro-government forces on June 25, 2013 at a checkpoint pitched on Road 86, between Khan Ehieh and Damascus.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian penitentiaries.