



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

10-04-2020

No. 2725

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugee Community from Syria Sounds Distress Signals"

- Situation of Palestinians in Hama Refugee Camp Exacerbated by COVID-19 Outbreak
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp Slam Indifference by Local Authorities
- Limited Water Supplies Pumped Into Handarat Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Rashid Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Jail for 6th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

The Follow-Up Committee of Displaced Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon's central and western AlBekaa region, have urged the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the Palestinian factions, and the national and international humanitarian institutions to seriously work on securing the refugees' access to life-saving healthcare services and socio-economic assistance in Syria and Lebanon.

The committee said Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) continue to struggle for survival in the Lebanese territories. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has made their humanitarian situation quite more calamitous.

PRS's vulnerability is further exacerbated by the absence of medical assistance and humanitarian aid.



The committee leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA for failing to live up to its responsibilities in light of such a critical situation, saying urgent efforts should be made by the Agency in order to enhance the refugees humanitarian condition amid a full lockdown imposed across the Lebanese territories to prevent further coronavirus contaminations.



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

It further called on UNRWA to reach out to higher-ranking UN stakeholders and international relief bodies so as to boost funding for the Palestine refugee community at a time when the virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of vulnerable people around the globe.

Along similar lines, Palestinians taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hama have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, absence of stable financial resources, the sharp shortage in fuel supplies, frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance.

The vulnerable situation in AlAyedeen displacement camp has been aggravated by the full shutdown imposed by the Syrian government across the war-ravaged country in response to coronavirus outbreak.

The lockdown has already impacted thousands of day laborers, families with female breadwinners, people with special needs, and low-income workers.

AGPS documented the death of 26 Palestinian residents of AlAyedeen Camp in Hama between March 15, 2011 and early October 2019 due to war-related incidents.

Hama camp lies within the town of Hama, 210 km north of Damascus. The camp was established in 1950 on an area of 0.06 square kilometers overlooking the Orontes river. Most of the refugees had fled from the villages surrounding Haifa and Acre in northern Palestine, according to the UN.



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

Before the conflict in Syria, there were 8,000 Palestine refugees living in Hama camp. It is estimated that 1,000 of the original population have left the country.

Environmental health in the camp is a serious problem and the mechanization of solid waste disposal is one of the most pressing needs. The sewerage system is antiquated and does not meet the requirements of a growing camp population.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike as a direct consequence of the ongoing crisis in Syria.

Meanwhile, residents of Khan Eshieh refugee camp have denounced the apathy shown by the local municipality regarding their appeals to clear the trash piles accumulated near residential neighborhoods located west of the main access road.

Civilians said the mounds of uncleared garbage pose serious health threats and put their children's hygiene at risk particularly amid the coronavirus outbreak.

They called on municipality staff and the concerned authorities to urgently embark on a sterilization drive so as to disinfect residential neighborhoods and public facilities in the area.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the nine-year long warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan



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

historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

In the meantime, water has been pumped into a number of residential neighborhoods in Handarat displacement camp, in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

An AGPS reported said maintenance works have been ongoing in the area to repair water pipes and provide water supplies to other neighborhoods.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in



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

buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.



UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

Ein El Tal camp was once home to around 7,000 residents. Around three hundred families moved to newly constructed houses in Ein



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

El-Tal from Neirab camp under a 2003 project to reduce overcrowding in Neirab.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Ibrahim Rashid has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons since 2014.

Mohamed was arrested on January 05, 2014 in Ali AlWahsh Street in Hjeira town, south of Damascus, as he attempted to flee the blockaded Yarmouk Camp.





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

Lists of hundreds of forcibly disappeared Palestinian refugees and victims in Syria are available on AGPS website, both in English and Arabic. AGPS supplies a database of their names and possible times and places of arrest.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of over 1,794 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups.