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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Palestinian Families in Northern Syria Displacement Camps Denounce UNRWA Apathy

- **Japanese Delegation Pays Visit to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees**
- **Explosive Device Goes Off in Deraa Camp**
- **Poll Reveals Ambivalent Situation of Palestinian refugee Students from Syria in Lebanon**



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in displacement camps in northern Syria have leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA after they sent a letter urging the agency to take action regarding their abject humanitarian condition.

Responding to the letter, which was sent by the directorate of Palestinians in northern Syria, UNRWA expressed deep concern over the dire situation of vulnerable refugee families in the area. However, it did not suggest any practical measures to alleviate the suffering of displaced families.

UNRWA said that northwest Syria remains inaccessible or hard to reach.

It claimed that following contacts with international humanitarian organizations operating in the area, it has been told that Palestinian refugees are receiving humanitarian aid as part of comprehensive humanitarian operations for vulnerable persons.

UNRWA said it is aware that due to the increasing needs of vulnerable people, this assistance may not be sufficient but the Agency continues to monitor the situation and will explore other options for humanitarian assistance once the area becomes safe.

Head of the refugees directorate in northern Syria said UNRWA claims are counterfeit and that a memorandum will be handed over to the Agency to call it on to assume its duties regarding Palestinian refugees in northern Syria as they are sheltered in an area that falls within UNRWA's fields of operations.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in displacement camps in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of poverty add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin,



and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.

Along similar lines, a Japanese delegation accompanied by UNRWA director of Syria operations, Michael Amany Ebye, showed up in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, Syria.

The visit comes as part of ongoing attempts to rehabilitate UNRWA premises in Syria, including its schools, clinics, and other vital facilities.

The residents lashed out at the delegations, saying visits to the camp have been fruitless so far as their homes and buildings which have been ravaged in the conflict remain uninhabitable.

Most UNRWA premises in Yarmouk, including 16 schools, were severely damaged in the conflict and need reconstruction.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the impact of displacement and hardship add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In the meantime, a blast rocked Deraa refugee camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, after an explosive device went off at April 7 School.

The explosive device was implanted by anonymous parties at a time when a wedding ceremony was being held in the camp. Material damage was reported.

Landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which are particularly unpredictable and difficult to detect, continue to put millions of people, including Palestine refugees, at risk;

In Syria, approximately 1 in 2 people are at risk from explosive contamination and 1/3 of the communities are potentially contaminated. Contamination severely impacts lives, livelihoods and amplifies the social and economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

People displaced or returning home are at high risk as they have limited information on safety issues in the areas they are going to.



This threat is particularly high for Palestine refugees in Syria, especially in newly-accessible or difficult-to-reach areas. These include areas that Palestine refugees have recently returned to areas such as Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camp. Children on their way to and from school are also highly exposed to the dangers of explosive ordnance.

In the meantime, Palestinian activists handed over to UNRWA the findings of a poll about the legal hurdles facing displaced Palestinian refugee students from Syria wishing to get enrolled at Lebanese universities and sit for 9th grade and high school exams in the Lebanese territories.

UNRWA reportedly pledged to reach out to the concerned students who participated in the poll, to work out their legal situation, and help them gain access to Lebanese academic institutions.

Nearly 29,000 displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter in Lebanon.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.