



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



**"Family Appeals for Information over Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria"**

- Norwegian Council Shows Up in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Healthcare Initiative Launched in ALSayed Zeinab Camp
- Qatar Contributes US\$ 7 Million to Support Palestinian Refugees in Syria
- UNRWA Reaches Out to Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon over Cash Aid Transfer

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## Latest Developments

The family of Palestinian refugee Yousef Shteivi has appealed to the international human rights organizations and concerned parties in Syria to reveal the condition and whereabouts of their father, who has been forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime for the 8<sup>th</sup> year running.

The family called on ex-prisoners in Syria who have met Yousef or have pieces of information about his current location and condition to reach out to AGPS.

Yousef was born in 1968. He is the father of seven sons and daughters. He was arrested on November 06, 2013 at a regime military checkpoint in Deraa, south of Syria, while he was on his way to his workplace.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS has also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant



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violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In another development, representatives of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp and toured 12 schools run by the Syrian government and UNRWA in the area.

The delegation is assessing the damage wrought on educational premises in Yarmouk Camp in order to contribute to reconstruction projects.

Earlier this year, Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), Ali Mustafa, handed over to the Education Ministry a memorandum which he received from education chief in Yarmouk Camp Walid AlKurdi calling for the rehabilitation of schools in Yarmouk.

Palestinian refugee schoolchildren and students continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the ten-year warfare.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.



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Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Dozens of Palestinian students, schoolchildren, and teaching staff have been killed or forcibly disappeared in war-ravaged Syria.

Meanwhile, the Quds Charity has launched an initiative to provide free medical diagnoses to residents of AlSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian refugees.

291 patients received medical treatment and medicines on the first day of the campaign.

All the way through the ten-year Syrian conflict, Palestinians taking refuge in AlSayeda Zeinab camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

Along similar lines, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) announced a US\$ 18 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of its core resources for 2021 and 2022.

UNRWA said in a press release issued on Tuesday that the total contribution of US\$ 18 million will be disbursed in multiple tranches, with US\$ 10 million in 2021 and US\$ 8 million in 2022.



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Qatar is the first Arab country to have ever signed a multi-year agreement with UNRWA in 2018 - with the previous agreement covering core UNRWA resources throughout 2019 and 2020.

Furthermore, QFFD has contributed US\$ 7 million to UNRWA in support of its emergency programme in Syria. This generous contribution will cover urgently needed cash assistance, education, health and vocational training programme for Palestine refugees in Syria.

The general situation in Syria is still causing immense challenges for Palestine refugees. This contribution from QFFD comes at a much-needed time due to the deteriorating living situation and difficult socioeconomic conditions inside Syria which are further impacting an already vulnerable Palestine refugee population, with increasing levels of poverty and food insecurity, as well as fuel and electricity shortages.

During his visit to Doha, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini signed the partnership agreement with QFFD Director General, Khalifa Jassim Al Kuwari. “UNRWA is extremely proud of its partnership with QFFD and the government of Qatar,” said Lazzarini. “Their regular support over several decades has greatly contributed to the Agency’s ability to deliver health, education and lifesaving services to Palestine refugees.”

In commenting on the timeliness of this outstanding show of support, he said: “At a time of intense pressure on our Agency, the generosity of the government of Qatar and QFFD sends a clear message of solidarity to the Palestine refugees.”



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UNRWA is intensifying its outreach to donors and partners ahead of the International Conference on UNRWA that will be held in Brussels on 16 November under the chairmanship of Jordan and Sweden. The conference is seeking to establish a plan whereby the international community provides the Agency with sufficient and sustainable funding to allow the continuation and modernization of the services that Palestine refugees receive as part of the UNRWA mandate from the United Nations General Assembly.

In the meantime, UNRWA has started sending text messages through Lebanon Post to displaced Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon who could not withdraw their cash aid from Bankmed.

UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", UNRWA said that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories. Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.



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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.