



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



"UNRWA: 91% of Palestinian Refugees in Syria Live in Absolute Poverty"

- PRS in Egypt Denounce Embassy Mistreatment
- Documentation Center Calls on Displaced Palestinians to Sign Up for Identity Documents
- Palestinian Girl Maryem Jaber Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jail for 6th Year

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Latest Developments

Over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes, warned the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.



UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

UNRWA said that the continuous depreciation of the Syrian pound and the deteriorating socio-economic conditions experienced by all civilians in Syria during the last year have increased the hardship faced by Palestine refugees, whose resilience is at breaking point.



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In 2019, UNRWA was confronted with unprecedented organizational and financial challenges, which put its ability to fulfill its mandate to the test. The decision of the United Nations General Assembly, in December 2019, to extend the UNRWA mandate until 2023 is a confirmation of the relevance of the Agency's mission, pending a just and lasting solution to the plight of Palestine refugees.

By end of October 2019, UNRWA had only received 26 per cent of the funds required to deliver humanitarian assistance to some 438,000 Palestine refugees, who remain amongst those worst affected by the conflict in Syria. UNRWA was forced to scale down its livelihoods and vocational training activities, which are critical to the resilience of Palestine refugees.

In these circumstances, any interruption to UNRWA services would inflict major suffering, depriving vulnerable communities of their main – and often – sole source of assistance.

UNRWA said that in 2020, ensuring sufficient and predictable funding to the UNRWA Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal is crucial to prevent Palestine refugees in Syria from slipping into further misery and despair. It is also needed to maintain vital services for PRS in Lebanon and in Jordan, who live in conditions of marginalization and poverty, and are exposed to multiple protection vulnerabilities.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt have railed against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by the staff members of the Palestine Embassy in Cairo.



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The refugees rallied outside of the Embassy office, urging embassy officials to push for their registration with UNHCR and their access to vital services.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

Palestinians from Syria in Egypt have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.

Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.

AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt, who fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operations, to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.



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Meanwhile, the Documentation Center of Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria called on Palestinians displaced from Idlib and Aleppo's western outskirts to Aleppo's northern suburbs to show up at the center in order to register their personal information and obtain the necessary identity documents.

The Documentation Center of Palestinian Refugees North of Syria was established in order to keep record of and provide personal data about Palestinian refugees sheltered in northern Syria. The group cooperates with the concerned authorities to that end.



The center has reportedly seen the day in response to the absence of authentic civil records and official bodies documenting the personal data (including marriage contracts, birth date, death date, number of children and newborns etc...) of the Palestinian refugees who have been taking shelter in northern Syria.

In the meantime, Palestinian child Myriam Maher Jaber, born in 2011, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government prisons for the sixth consecutive year.



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The child was arrested on January 05, 2014 in Ali AlWahsh Street, in Hjeira town, south of Damascus, as she attempted to flee the blockaded Yarmouk Camp with her family.

AGPS has documented the secret internment of 1,786 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run prisons, including women and minors.