



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



"Palestinian Orphans in Syria Displacement Camp Enduring Abject Situation"

- Elderly Palestinian Woman Left on Her Own in Athens
- Countries Hosting Palestinian Refugees Convene in Amman
- Petition Launched in Sweden by Asylum Seekers Seeking Permanent Visas
- Migrants Deported from Lesbos to Athens

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

Vulnerable groups taking shelter in Daraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, continue to struggle for survival in the poverty-stricken area.

Some 121 households in Daraa lost their fathers, who served as their sole breadwinners, and nine other families lost both parents in the warfare.

AGPS has kept record of the death of over 250 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

Humanitarian conditions have gone remarkably worse in Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees due to the price leap, poor infrastructure, and absence of vital services.

Civilians continue to sound distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare. Dozens of sick and elderly civilians face mountainous journeys trying to reach AlKashef area for treatment.



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UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands.

As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Deraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

The camp was initially set up on an area of 0.04 square kilometers, and it now covers an area of 1.3 square kilometers. In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict.



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Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Umm Mohamed, aged 56, continues to face an abject situation in Athens, to which she fled from war-torn Syria, following a life-threatening journey onboard a “death boat” from Turkey with her daughter. The latter headed for Sweden as part of family reunification procedures. Umm Mohamed is not left on her own.

Umm Mohamed tried to go back to Turkey but her bag, personal documents, and the small amount of money she had collected were all stolen.

The Palestine Embassy in Turkey said the refugee cannot return to Turkey as she had irregularly left the country.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by coast guards.



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Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

In another development, the Arab Host Countries for Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan convened a meeting on Tuesday morning at the headquarters of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in Amman.

The participants shed the light on the financial crises faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The meeting, chaired by Jordan, also discussed underway preparations for the donor conference slated to be held in New York on June 23, 2020.

The videoconference was attended by the head of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees in Syria Ali Mustafa and a number of officials from Arab host countries.

The participants called on donor countries to fulfill their pledges and send their cash assistance to UNRWA, which they said plays a vital role in maintaining peace and security in the region.

Meanwhile, a campaign has been launched on com.skriverunder.www site to collect signatures on a petition demanding that holders of temporary visas in Sweden be granted permanent visas.

The petition will be passed on to the Swedish Parliament ahead of a parliament vote on new visa laws and regulations.



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Recently, a new debate has been 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 temporary asylum law that will remain into effect until next summer.

According to Swedish media outlets, the Social Democrats Party will take part in a debate to determine the number of migrants to be hosted by Sweden in line with the new migration policy.

At the same time, the Christian Democrats Party has launched calls to reduce the number of migrants and implement tougher regulations. The Green Party strongly condemned such closed-door immigration policies.

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

Over the past few years, thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among other migrants, who have applied for asylum in Sweden were granted two-year visas.

Eligibility criteria set by the Swedish authorities include a well-paid work contract valid for a minimum of two years and which enters into force before the expiration of the temporary visa. The employer should submit a recruitment declaration at the Swedish tax authority, taking into consideration the conditions defined by the national trade unions.



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In the meantime, migrants have been transferred from Lesbos Island to Athens after the Greek authorities ordered that a number of migrant shelters and houses be evacuated by asylum seekers whose visa applications were approved.

Earlier this year, the Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection issued a decision to evacuate all buildings housing migrant residents who have received visas or subsidiary protection cards in Greece since 2017.

The Ministry said the eviction should be carried out no later than April 2020.

Activists said the move dovetails the country's attempt to rein in the influx of migrants and overcrowdings on its islands.

The activists further warned of the fallouts of the decision, which they said will result in increasing numbers of homeless refugees who will be left with neither food nor shelter and be denied their basic human rights.

Palestinian refugees who have fled war-stricken zones to Greece have been denied their rights to visas and prevented from accessing vital facilities.