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من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



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

AGPS Calls for Protection of Palestinian Refugees in/from Syria

- **Palestinian Refugees Rally in Deir Ballout over Squalid Conditions**
- **Cancer-Stricken Palestinian Refugee in Lebanon Appeals for Urgent Treatment**
- **Palestinian Refugee Families Deprived of Heating Equipment in Syria**



Latest Developments

On the International Human Rights Day, AGPS calls on the international community and UNRWA to assume their responsibilities regarding the Palestinian refugee community and to work on providing those trapped in conflict zones, particularly Syria, with psycho-physical and legal protection.

AGPS also stresses the need to secure the refugees' access to their basic rights to free movement, healthcare, humanitarian assistance, and education, as per international laws and conventions.

Due to their fragile legal status, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been subject to arbitrary arrests and movement crackdowns and denied their basic rights. Those who fled the war-torn country to other destinations remain at a constant risk of refoulement.

After twelve years of conflict, PRS continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

The death toll of the Palestinians of Syria has hit 4,121, among them 3,221 civilians. At the same time, AGPS recorded the secret detention and enforced disappearance of over 3,000 PRS. 636 refugees died under torture in Syrian prisons.

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.

UN data indicates that 126,000 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.

Along similar lines, displaced Palestinian families north of Syria continue to rally for the second consecutive week protesting their tragic living conditions in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp.



The refugees urged UNRWA, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the concerned NGOs to live up to their responsibilities as regards dozens of hopeless families taking shelter in the area and to provide them with much-needed cash aid, medical items, and relief services.

Children taking refuge in the camp have been unable to pursue their studies as no educational facilities have been established in the area. The lack of healthcare facilities has made the situation far worse. Disease-stricken refugees are treated inside a poorly-equipped makeshift tent-clinic.

Meanwhile, an elderly Palestinian woman in Lebanon continues to launch cries for help over her deteriorating health condition.

The cash-stripped refugee suffers lung cancer and needs urgent chemical radiation. She is sheltered in Wadi AlZineh, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Medics said she is in urgent need of 30 chemical radiation sessions, at an estimated cost of 70,000 million Lebanese pounds (1,800 USD) and another 400 USD as travel expenses to Nabih Berri Hospital.

AGPS is deeply alarmed by the dire situation of Palestine refugees in Lebanon and the precariousness in which they live, particularly in the last year of acute financial crisis and pandemic. Many Palestine refugees live in 12 overcrowded camps across the country.

The most vulnerable, including Palestine refugees who fled from Syria, do not get financial assistance to buy food and other basic necessities. With the current financial crisis, most Palestine refugees have found themselves slipping further into destitution.

The “dollar crisis” in Lebanon, where the official exchange rate of the US dollar against the Lebanese pound is nearly ten times lower than the black-market rate, has seen the purchasing power of the UNRWA cash assistance slashed tenfold.

Even before the pandemic and the financial meltdown of Lebanon, Palestine refugees lived in poverty and faced systemic restrictions that limited their employment, property ownership and, at times, movement. Joblessness has been high in Palestine refugee camps



for many years, but the collapse of the Lebanese economy in the last few months has left many of them feeling desperate, especially as UNRWA has been struggling with an acute financial crisis itself. COVID-19 has been the latest in a series of recent devastating blows to a community that has suffered marginalization and uncertainty for decades.

In the meantime, as weather temperatures have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in Syria continue to struggle with multiple hardships.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugees said they have no heating equipment except for blankets and mattresses.

The families expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes this year due to fuel dearth, as a freezing winter season is about to unlock its gates.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.

The price of a ton of wood has been raised to over one million Syrian pounds while a liter of fuel is sold in the black market at over 18,000 pounds.

At the same time, desperate for warmth, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking refuge in under-equipped camps and substandard facilities have been burning their clothes and plastic materials to stave off winter cold after they failed to afford firewood and fuel supplies.

This has resulted in heavy smokes engulfing camps from all corners and engendering civilians', particularly children's, health condition.

Activists sounded the alarm over the health hazards emanating from toxic smokes. Scores of children have sustained costochondritis (chest inflammation) and bronchitis due to heavy smoke inhalation.

Earlier this year, Head of Advocacy, Media & Communications for the Middle East at Norwegian Refugee Council, Samah Hadid, said life has never been this unaffordable for the displaced and



returnees in Syria; People have to eat less, burn clothes to keep warm, skip medical procedures and live in destroyed homes. Parents lie awake at night worrying about how to buy bread for their children.