



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



"On the eve of the World Day against Child Labor, the Action Group: The war is forcing the Palestinian-Syrian children to drop education and seek work"

- Documentation of the death of a Palestinian refugee in the prisons of the Syrian regime
- The residents of Sabinah camp suffer from the shortage and the lack of access of water to their homes
- The Palestinian Red Crescent inspects its medical facilities in Yarmouk camp
- Significant obstacles and difficulties faced by the Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Europe
- The Charitable Association distributes infant milk to the Palestinian families in Yelda

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Victims

The Action Group has documented the death of Palestinian refugee “Asaad Abu Habib,” from Al-Raml camp for Palestinian refugees in Lattakia, due to torture in the Syrian regime prisons. He was arrested near to Al-Sannah in 2014.

This raises the total number of Palestinian refugees who have died due to torture in the Syrian regime prisons to 458 victims, according to the documentations of the Action Group. The actual number is expected to be much higher because of the Syrian regime’s secrecy of the fates of over 1679 detainees.



Latest Developments

The consequences of the war in Syria were not limited to the victims, the wounded and the displaced, but extended to threaten the future of hundreds of Palestinian-Syrian children who were forced by the economic conditions in their places of displacement and their families to leave their studies and seek work to help their families secure their living expenses and the house rents.



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In the face of these harsh conditions, hundreds of refugee children have been forced to work in a manner that does not suit their age and the nature of their vulnerable bodies. They work in difficult occupations such as heavy carting, garbage collection, or washing cars, or professions that do not suit them.

While activists attribute the main cause to the Palestinian-Syrian child labor, especially in the neighboring towns to Syria, to the failure of UNRWA in meeting its obligations towards the refugee children and their families, in addition to the absence of no serious role for the Palestinian embassies in working to alleviate the suffering of refugees.



UNRWA's decision to reduce its financial assistance to the Palestinian refugee families displaced from Syria to Lebanon, has pushed them to make more difficult decisions at all levels (education, immigration, return to Syria, employment of women and children, etc.)

As an example, the vegetable market in Ain Al-Hilweh camp is crowded with children who drop out of school as workers in vegetable and clothing shops or with craftsmen and professionals inside the camp.



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The economic factor played a major role in the spread of the phenomenon of "child labor" among the Palestinian refugees from Syria and their school dropout. For example, the fare for the transfer of students in the areas of Palestinian refugees in Turkey is a major obstacle to the continuity of education. The minimum transportation fare is 75 Turkish pounds for one student, therefore if a family includes more than one child, it is considered draining of the family's financial assets.

In Lebanon, dozens of children were left out of school, when some families were forced to drop their children's education to help raise household incomes to cover high expenditures, amid the cutting of aid overall and UNRWA's reduction of its assistance.

For example, the number of students enrolled in an UNRWA school in the Ain Al-Hilweh camp, in the first and second stages of primary school for the 2015-2016 academic year, of the refugees living or the refugees from Syria, reached 496 students. However, the actual number of students enrolled in UNRWA schools who reached the school, was 342 students. The number of students from the same segment during the academic year 2014-2015 was 604 students.

In Syria, the situation of children of the Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Syria is similar to those who were displaced outside Syria, due to the spread of unemployment, security tension and the lack of schools in some of the cities in which they were displaced to within Syria.

The siege imposed on a number of camps, including Yarmouk camp, by the Syrian regime forces and the Palestinian factions affiliated to



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it, forced the people to search food and water and to urgently find a source of income for the children. While some of the children went out looking for jobs that clogged their guts, even if they will receive grass. Not only the students did this, but also the teachers. The teachers of the "Jarmak" school in Yarmouk suspended education on 8 February 2015 at the school, to go out in search of food for their families.

It is noteworthy that thousands of Palestinian refugees have been displaced from Syria during the ongoing war in Syria, and in their countries of displacement, they have experienced great difficulties on the living, educational and social levels and the loss of their rights to education and decent living.

In another context, the residents of Sabinah camp for Palestinian refugees in the suburbs of Damascus are suffering from the water cuts for several months, which is forcing them to buy water from the tanks at very high prices, aggravating their living and economic suffering.

The residents of Rawda Al-Horreya Street are suffering from the lack of water reaching their houses for long periods of time, noting that the water is pumped regularly without any interruption to the rest of the areas belonging to the municipality of Quneitra.

On their part, the residents of Al-Souq lane in the camp stated that the water has been cut from their lane for four months, because of a fault in the pipes that feed their homes, pointing out that they filed a complaint to the municipality to repair the malfunction. The



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municipality promised to repair it within two days, but it has been four months without repairation.

While the residents of Sabinah camp, which is located 14 km away from the south of Damascus, complain about the lack of relief assistance provided to them by the relief associations and institutions and UNRWA, accusing UNRWA of failing to provide them with the same aid that other camps receive. They are also suffering from the absence of basic services and infrastructure services.

In 2013, Sabinah camp witnessed violent clashes and was subjected to heavy bombardments by the Syrian regime forces, which led to the total and partial damage of 80% of its buildings, before the regime took control of it on 17-11-2013. On the 30th of August 2017, some of its residents were allowed to return to it.

In south Damascus, a group of volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent carried out an inspection visit to Palestine Hospital and the Deir Yasin Medical Complex, in order to ascertain the amount of structural damage to its buildings, especially the building of Palestine Hospital which was destroyed following its bombardment by the Syrian regime's warplanes, during the military operation it launched on the camp on 19-04-2018.

It is worth mentioning that the Syrian regime forces looted the medical equipment from the Palestine Hospital in the damaged Yarmouk camp, and its elements expelled the Palestinian Red Crescent crews who entered with two ambulances from the capital Damascus and prevented them from entering the Palestine



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Hospital. This occurred after ISIS withdrew from the camp and the regime imposed its control over it.



Meanwhile, the Palestinian refugees in the European countries face many obstacles and problems. The refugees believe that all their problems will be resolved after they arrive in these countries. However, they soon encounter the real obstacles, the most prominent of which is the problem of waiting long for a possible issuance of their residency permits in these countries. These waiting periods may reach one year. The most difficult obstacle is the delay in family reunification. In some countries it may take up to a year and a half, which makes the people and refugees in poor psychological conditions, especially in the case of the people being in dangerous areas, in addition to the economic burden that come as a result.

The difficulties faced by the families residing in Syria while reaching the European embassies in Lebanon or Turkey are problematic, because of the denial of entry to Turkey and Lebanon. In addition, the Palestinian refugees in the European countries are suffering from the absence of a representative body of them to which they can refer to for their problems and procedures, and to familiarize them



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with the nature of the societies they have moved to. They have difficulties with languages and finding a house because many of the Palestinian refugees move to Europe. In the meantime, the refugees also suffer from the high costs of transportation and poor communication between them as a result of the distance between the cities.

It should be noted that previous obstacles may not face all refugees and are not the only ones facing others.

Local Work Committees

The Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief distributed an amount of infant milk to the Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk camp to Yelda in south Damascus. It also distributed sanitary pads for the elderly. This comes within the health care and the social welfare programs for the most vulnerable families, that was launched by the Association in several camps and Palestinian communities.

Hundreds of Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk camp are living in the neighboring towns of the camp.