



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



"Palestinian Refugee in Lebanon Succumbs to Wounds Sustained in Car Accident"

- UNRWA Chief in Syria Meets with Damascus Governor
- Property-Theft Ongoing in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Student from Syria Achieves Outstanding Results in UAE
- 120 Migrants Rescued Off Turkish Seashore

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Latest developments

Palestinian refugee from Syria Ziad Abdul Kader died following a car accident in Lebanon's AlBekaa region. He was denied admission into a local hospital as his cash-stripped family failed to pay hospitalization charges in advance.

Activists launched appeals via social media networks to raise treatment funds, estimated at 4 million Lebanese pounds. They managed to garner only 100 USD. The refugee breathed his last shortly after.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Lebanon, where they have been subjected to a precarious legal status and dire socio-economic conditions owing to their lack of access to vital services, particularly health care.

Data by the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria (PRS), continue to face dire conditions and high vulnerability in Lebanon.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income.

95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

In another development, Director of UNRWA operations in Syria Amany Michael-Ebye discussed with Damascus Governor Adel AlAleibi efficient ways to boost bilateral cooperation in order to enhance the dire humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees and ensure their access to relief assistance, particularly in light of the socio-economic hardship inflicted by the anti-coronavirus lockdown measures.

This came in a Sunday meeting held at the headquarters of the Damascus Governorate.

Recently, Yarmouk residents slammed the UNRWA official for his apathy regarding their appeals to work on pressurizing the Governorate to refrain from implementing the new organizational plan issued by the end of June.

Activists from Yarmouk camp have also slammed the Damascus Governorate for blackmailing the residents who have voiced strong opposition to the new organizational plan put forth by the Governorate.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new organizational plan put forth by Damascus Governorate to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Tension has been running high in the area as thousands of refugees continue to rail against the proposed plan, amid growing fears that their homes and property will be removed from the new plan.

Recently, the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) has called on the Syrian authorities in Damascus to re-examine the new organizational plan and to rather implement the old plan which was approved in 2004.

In a statement issued sometime earlier, AGPS said plans that do not take into account Palestinians' inalienable rights make part of underway conspiracies to further displace the Palestinian people and destroy displacement camps as living witnesses to their refugee plight.

The statement said the new organizational plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

Families displaced from Yarmouk Camp continue to appeal to the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian political factions in Syria to take serious measures in



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

order to facilitate their return to the camp, to pressurize the Syrian government to abandon the new organizational plan, and to rather work on preserving the demographic and historical idiosyncrasy of the shelter.

Activists warned that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

Meanwhile, reports of burglary continue to emerge in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees had been taking shelter.

Members of pro-government groups have reportedly stolen furniture from abandoned buildings in and around Yarmouk neighborhoods.

Palestinian families displaced from the area continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية
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In another development, Palestinian student Mohamed Esam AlShoura, from Yarmouk Camp, has been listed among the top students in the UAE secondary schools for the academic year 2019-2020.

Speaking with emaratalyoun, Mohamed hailed his family and teachers for supporting him all the way through the school years.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

Almost ten years into the conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The conflict has caused immense suffering and trauma over the past years.

Meanwhile, the Turkish coast guard rescued 60 migrants off Mogla seashore, southwest of Turkey onboard two migrant boats in Marmaris coast.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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38 migrants were also rescued by Turkish seashore off Kizil Ada seashore, among them women and children and 22 others off Bozburun.