



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



"Yarmouk's Displaced Families Level Heavy Criticism at Damascus Governorate"

- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Price Leap in Syria Displacement Camp
- Residents of AlHusainiya Refugee Camp Grappling with Transportation Crisis
- Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees Subjected to Negligence by Syrian Authorities

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Latest Developments

Displaced Palestinian families wishing to return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, continue to denounce the complicated red tape slapped by the Syrian authorities.

Speaking with AGPS on condition of anonymity, a resident said regime officers continue to force civilians wishing to gain access to their houses and retrieve their property to pay sums of money at government-run checkpoints.

“How can we afford to pay sums of up to 50,000 Syrian pounds at a time when we have run out of all our financial resources?” he said.

Residents of Yarmouk Camp continue to slam Damascus authorities over their apathy regarding their appeals to reconstruct destroyed premises and facilitate civilians’ return to the camp.

The refugees said none of the pledges made by Damascus Governorate regarding the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp have been materialized on the ground.

Yarmouk camp, once home to 160,000 Palestine refugees, suffered devastating destruction because of intense fighting that decimated most of the camp’s buildings.

Some 430 families who have returned to Yarmouk in the last few months say they had no option because they cannot afford to rent



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homes after several years of displacement. Their children go to the nearby al-Zahera schools in Damascus using buses provided by UNRWA. Seventy-five per cent of the Agency's 23 premises, including 16 schools, need to be completely rebuilt and all three of the Agency's health centres in Yarmouk are destroyed.

Along similar lines, residents of AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, said prices have skyrocketed at the local market, where vital products have been sold at exorbitant costs.

Reporting from the camp, an AGPS correspondent said prices of fuel and bread have seen an increase of 250% and 100% consecutively.

At the same time, a bus ticket from the camp to Aleppo University costs 800 pounds, up from 300 in previous months while a bread bundle is sold at 200 pounds, up from 100.

The residents called on local authorities to take serious measures in response to price manipulation and violations of product pricing rules.

Living conditions in AlNeirab Camp have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee



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camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Meanwhile, residents of AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to denounce exorbitant prices of public transportation following the latest surge in subsidized fuel prices.

The majority of bus drivers refuse to give civilians lifts to and back from distant locations following the swift increase in the prices of subsidized fuel from 180 to 500 Syrian pounds.



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The residents urged local authorities to take action in response to price manipulation by bus drivers who increased the ticket price from 125 to 500 pounds.

A number of day labourers and students find no other way than to board private vehicles at a price of up to 2,500 pounds.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

Located some 15 kilometers away from Damascus, AlHusainiya Camp, like other areas in Syria, is overwhelmed by displacement, unemployment, inflation, and lack of protection among other major concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria.

In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp have denounced the apathy maintained by the local municipality regarding their appeals for enhancing vital services.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter on the outskirts of the camp denounced the poor hygiene and absence of garbage-clearance services.

The residents called on AlMenshiya Municipality to coordinate with UNRWA in order to provide vital services to Palestinian



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refugees sheltered in zones that fall outside of the Agency's fields of operations.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the ten-year warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.