



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



"Situation of Palestinian Young Men/Women Exacerbated by Syria Warfare"

- 12 Palestinians from Syria Succumb to Coronavirus
- Palestinian Refugees in Jordan Denounced Delay in UNRWA Aid Delivery
- Liwaa AlQuds Former Military Commander Held in Syrian Prison for 2nd Year

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Latest developments

Almost ten years into the Syrian conflict, Palestinian youths continue to face a squalid humanitarian condition and an ambivalent future.

Thousands have lost their jobs; others have become internally displaced; and hundreds more have been subjected to enforced disappearance and arrest.

At the same time, the Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

More than nine years of deadly warfare have also imperiled the quality of education and access to educational facilities in the ravaged Syrian territories. Palestinian youths and university students continue to strive for careers that match their dreams for a better future

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the



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Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools and universities to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

In another development, 12 Palestinians from Syria have succumbed to the novel coronavirus so far, according to AGPS data.

On March 29, Palestinian refugee from Syria Hasan Tershahani, aged 72, succumbed to the disease in the Netherlands.

Palestinian refugee Ibrahim AlKhatib also died of coronavirus in Sweden.

A few days earlier, Regional director of UNRWA's Health Program in Syria, Tayseer Sabagh, succumbed to COVID-19 in Damascus. He was pronounced dead at Kindi Hospital. The funeral procession was held at AlKabon cemetery in Damascus.

The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) also mourned the death of Mohamed Tareq AlKhadraa, PLA's chief of staff, at the age of 89. AlKhadraa died of coronavirus which he contracted in Damascus, where he will also be buried. He breathed his last at Tishreen military hospital.

At the same time, PLA's brigadier general Mohamed Shahada Othman succumbed to coronavirus in Damascus.

Physics professor Sa'id Salah Hadid has died of coronavirus after he was denied admission into Turkish hospitals.



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Palestinian refugee Mohamed Kheir Mousa Diab has died of coronavirus in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, in Syria.

Lately, lawyer Mahmoud AlDabsi, a resident of Qudsaya, in Rif Dimashq, died of coronavirus.

At the same time, hundreds of refugees have contracted the virus in Syria, Europe, Lebanon, and Turkey.

Recently, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.

The Health Ministry's coronavirus team said wearing face masks and respecting social distancing has become an obligation at commercial centers and public facilities. Those who violate such orders will have to pay a fine of 8,000 Syrian pounds.

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.



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

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan have denounced delays in aid delivery by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The refugees said UNRWA officials have reneged on their promises to transfer the second and third batches of cash aid.

Displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to urge UNRWA to provide them with much-needed cash and medical assistance in order to be able to combat the deadly pandemic COVID-19.

The refugees also called on UNRWA to secure their access to hygiene kit, including disinfectants, gloves, face masks, and medicines.

They further appealed to the Agency to shell out financial aid as their socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the curfew and movement restrictions imposed in the kingdom.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية
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Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Samer Rafe', Liwaa AlQuds's former military commander, has been held in Syrian government prisons for the second consecutive year.

Samer was arrested in August 2018 following a clash with a government officer at a checkpoint in Latakia city.

The brigade's top commander Mohamed AlSa'id accused Rafe' of selling missiles to ISIS militias in Deir AlZor.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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Samer also been allegedly involved in drug trafficking. He had once been arrested over corruption and theft charges.