



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



"Activists Lash Out at PLO over Lack of Sympathy regarding Palestinians of Syria"

- **Palestinians in Hums Displacement Camp Facing Abject Humanitarian Condition**
- **Initiative Launched to Pay Rental Fees for Vulnerable Families in Jaramana Camp**
- **UNRWA Pays Visits to Elderly People in AlNeirab Camp**
- **Palestinian Student Maher AlAyesh Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8th Year**

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Latest Developments

Activists in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, have leveled heavy criticism at the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) over its apathy regarding the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria.

The activists said the PLO has recently done nothing more than distributing bread and detergents to the vulnerable refugee communities across the war-torn country.

They further denounced picture-taking by PLO members while distributing relief items to the refugees, dubbing it a sign of disrespect for the cash-stripped families.

The activists urged the PLO and the Palestinian political factions to seriously work on securing the families' safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp and access to vital facilities.



They added that none of the promises made by the PLO and the Syrian government regarding the families' return to the camp and the reconstruction of infrastructure has materialized on the ground.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military



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operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

Along similar lines, some 13,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance.

The spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the war-ragged country, along with the high rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.

On Monday, AGPS urged the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) along with the Syrian Health Ministry to provide the Palestinian refugee community in the war-torn country with hygiene kit and relief items in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

AGPS also stressed the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with medicines, detergents, and disinfectants in order to help the displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

AGPS said it is deeply concerned that the lack of transparency maintained by the Syrian government regarding the pandemic will result in a catastrophic situation in displacement camps, at a time



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when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

Over recent weeks, AGPS has 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 means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

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

The Syrian government has reported only 25 cases of confirmed COVID-19 tests and two deaths from the virus.

Meanwhile, activists from Jaramana refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, have embarked on a campaign to pay home rents for the poorest families in the area, amid the economic hardship inflicted by coronavirus outbreak.

A campaigner said so far eight families have had their rents paid as part of the initiative.

An activist has appealed to house owners to sympathize with the cash-stripped families and exempt them from paying rents for at least one month.



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Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.



In another development, medics at a UNRWA clinic in AlNeirab refugee camp paid field visits on Monday to elderly people with chronic diseases and supplied those diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension with medicines.

Routine at-home medical checks up were also carried out by the medical delegation as part of the visit.

Recently, the Syrian government has stepped up measures to tackle the novel coronavirus COVID-19, including imposing home quarantines, suspending flights, and shutting schools and public amenities.



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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 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



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winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In the meantime, Palestinian university student Maher Abdul Hamid AlAyesh has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syria government jails after he was kidnapped by Syrian security forces on June 10, 2012 from the exam room at Damascus Faculty of Science.

Maher, a third-year student of mathematics, was born in Tel Hamees, in AlKameshli, northeast of Syria, near the Turkish borders. An ex-prisoner said he had last met Maher in 2014 at AlMezzah Intelligence detention center.

According to AGPS data, more than 650 Palestinian refugees were fatally tortured in Syrian government lock-ups, where at least 1,794 others have been secretly held.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.