



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



"Displaced Palestinian Families in Northern Syria Push for Urgent Humanitarian Action"

- Eye-Witnesses: Holy Koran Books Stolen from Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Transfers Cash Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Jordan
- Aid Items Distributed in Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees displaced from southern Damascus and the refugee camps of Khan Eshieh, Yarmouk, and Deraa to displacement camps set up in northern Syria have appealed to the national and international humanitarian organizations to take up their responsibilities regarding their squalid humanitarian condition.

The refugees have called on UNRWA to take urgent measures so as to supply them with much-needed fuel food and non-food items and to strike partnerships with international organizations in order to deliver cash grants to the vulnerable families.

They further appealed to the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization to pressurize the Syrian and Turkish authorities to work on alleviating the economic hardship endured by the displaced families.

Several Palestinian families who were forcibly deported to northern Syria are crammed into over-crowded camps where neither power nor water supplies are available. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.



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In another development, a resident of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees said he caught sight of a Syrian security officer boarding a motorcycle and who stole Holy Koran books from a local mosque.

The eye-witness added that iron bars have been stolen from the dome of the Palestine Mosque, in Yarmouk displacement camp.

Activists have warned that civilian property has been subjected to ongoing theft assaults and homes to burglary in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus. Flocks of vehicles laden with belongings stolen from abandoned buildings in the camp have been spotted near the main entrance to the area.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Yarmouk 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 and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

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

Meanwhile, Palestinian activists said UNRWA has delivered cash grants for Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan.

Every registered refugee received a sum of 35 Jordanian dinars.



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In its Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2020, UNRWA said nearly 100% of Palestine refugee families from Syria (PRS) in Jordan are in critical need of sustained humanitarian assistance.

UNRWA said PRS are highly vulnerable and 31% of recorded PRS are members of female-headed households, which increases their vulnerability.

Due to new arrivals and natural population growth, the number of PRS recorded with the UNRWA in Jordan has reached 17,343 at the end of November 2019, including 349 refugees sheltered in King Abdullah Garden.

PRS who have entered from Syria and remain in Jordan irregularly are living under continuous risk of arrest, detention and potential for forced return to Syria. Their lack of legal status and corresponding protection risks in Jordan are a source of major concern to UNRWA.

After nine years of conflict, Palestinian refugees in and from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and severely undermined coping mechanisms.

According to the Agency's database, of the estimated 438,000 Palestine refugees remaining inside Syria, over 95 per cent (418,000) are in critical need of sustained humanitarian assistance. Some 254,000 Palestine refugees have been displaced at least once



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since the beginning of the conflict and an estimated 13,500 are trapped in hard-to reach or inaccessible locations.

In the meantime, Athar Foundation for Development, in partnership with the Syrian Ministry of Social Affairs and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) handed over food items to poor families in Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

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

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were live in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage laborers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.



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The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Two UNRWA schools premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.

The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure, affecting the electric network and the sewerage system. The camp suffers from sporadic sewage blockages due to the increased pressure on the existent sewerage system, which was designed for only 10,000 inhabitants, while there are now significantly more. Water supply resources have also been affected and the camp suffers from water shortages, especially during the summer months.

Many school children have dropped out or work after school hours to support their families. The camp also suffers from a high incidence of inherited diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anemia.