



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camps Transfer Dead Relatives to Another Cemetery

- **Artist Safa Sultan Calls for Raising Funds for Reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp**
- **Lazzarini: UNRWA's Mission Irreplaceable**
- **Liwaa AlQuds Opens Up New Office in Moscow**



Latest Developments

A number of Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa displacement camp, south of Syria, have transferred the bodies of their deceased relatives from the local cemetery to another location after the cemetery was ravaged by anonymous parties.

In 2012, residents of Deraa Camp were forced to bury their deceased relatives in a playground after they failed to reach the local cemetery due to heavy shelling and deadly shootouts. The playground was turned into a graveyard for war victims.

On July 27, 2012, the war machinery claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. Their bodies were all buried overnight in a collective pit dug in the playground. The area has become known as the "Martyrs' Cemetery".

Activists said transferring dead bodies from the graveyard will help the Syrian regime to reconstruct the area and cover up its war crimes against civilians.

In another development, Palestinian singer Safaa Sultan has launched calls for raising funds in order to reconstruct the ravaged Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Safaa said positive responses have been made by the Ministry of Culture and the Palestine Embassy in Damascus to help bring life back to normal in the camp.

Entering its eleventh year, the Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country. In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

Meanwhile, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Philip Lazzarini, said that "there are no plans to delegate UNRWA's tasks



to other parties, but the agency is facing a crisis in obtaining its needs."

Speaking at a joint press conference with the head of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, Lazzarini noted that "UNRWA is trying as much as possible to maintain the basic services it provides to Palestinian refugees", adding that more than 80 per cent of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon live below the poverty line.

The commissioner-general stressed the need to "work with perseverance so that the Agency does not reach the point where it is obliged to suspend its operations."

On Tuesday, Lazzarini told the UNRWA Advisory Committee during its meeting in Beirut that UNRWA and its senior management are subject to three sources of acute pressure: the lack of sufficient funding from member states to implement the General Assembly mandate, demands by some donors to amend UNRWA's operations and host countries and Palestine refugees who see any change in UNRWA's operations as a step towards infringing on refugees' rights and destroying UNRWA.

Lazzarini stressed that this is a very difficult period for UNRWA, and a very painful period for Palestine refugees, warning that the financial challenges faced by UNRWA may lead to a slow erosion or halt in the quality of its services.

On Tuesday, a two-day meeting of the UNRWA Advisory Committee began in Beirut with the participation of representatives of 28 donor states, in addition to three observers: Palestine, the Arab League and the European Union.

In the meantime, Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, opened a new office in Moscow, Russia.

Sources close to Liwaa AlQuds chief, Mohamed AlSa'id, published the latter's photos while on his way to Moscow on May 18 and another photo of him in the new office.

The move comes at a time when members of Liwaa AlQuds have been accused of committing war crimes and human rights abuses in Syria.



Sometime earlier, rights groups said Russia has drawn up list of tens of thousands of fighters from Syrian army and allied militias to be put on standby for deployment in Ukraine.