



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

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## التقرير اليومي

### الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



#### "Palestinians from Syria Stranded on Polish Border Launch Distress Signals"

- Palestinian Refugee Trapped in Northern Cyprus Appeals for Humanitarian Action
- Palestinians from Syria in Sudan Struggling with Ambivalent Fate
- Property-Theft Reported in Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Workers Clear Rubble from Deraa Camp

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees, including those who fled war-torn Syria, have been subjected to dire humanitarian conditions on the Polish borders.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of migrants said dozens of Palestinian refugees, among them women, have been trapped near Poland and left without roofs over their heads under extremely cold weather conditions. Neither food nor water are available in the area.

Polish border guards arrested scores of migrants who attempted to cross the border. People caught by authorities are subjected to heavy beating and intensive search before they are locked up in isolated locations and get robbed of their mobile phones and property. They are ultimately pushed to the Belorussian borders.

Over recent months, hundreds of people from places like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Africa have been trying to cross the border illegally every day. Poland has declared a state of emergency in the region and plans to build a wall on the border.

The Polish parliament has also passed legislation that human rights advocates say aims to legalise pushbacks of migrants across its borders in breach of the country's commitments under international law.



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Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Ali Walid AlSukari has sounded distress signals from a detention centre in Northern Cyprus, where he has been held for the 10 consecutive day.

Ali, who was born and raised in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, entered Northern Cyprus (officially the Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus) in an attempt to reach the Greek side of the island onboard an inflatable boat. He has been held in custody for the tenth day.

Speaking with AGPS by phone, Ali said he has spent sleepless nights in custody, wondering about the reason why he has been jailed.

Meanwhile, Palestinians from Syria have been subjected to abject living conditions in Sudan, where they are treated as foreigners rather than refugees.

Relief institutions have failed to live up to their duties as regards the Palestinian refugee community from Syria, who has been overburdened by the costly fees of visas and registration procedures.

Low wages, high rates of unemployment, and socio-economic marginalization have made life unbearable for Palestinian refugees in Sudan, forcing dozens of refugees to beg in the streets in order to feed their starved families.



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Dozens of families who fled to Libya, in a life-threatening journey via the Sudanese desert, attempting to head for Europe onboard the “death boats”, have fallen prey to arbitrary abductions, exploitation, and looting by human traffickers and sea gangsters.

Palestinians from Syria in Sudan have also been subjected to steep education fees, hitting up to \$150 at schools and \$3,000 at universities. Calls have been frequently launched to teach Palestinian children at UNICEF-run schools.

The refugees continue to slam the apathy maintained by the Palestine Embassy as regards their humanitarian condition and the difficulties they have been made to endure trying to obtain a Palestinian passport.

Sudan used to be the only country where Palestinians from Syria are let in without complicated legal procedures. A refugee obtains an entry permit from the Interior Ministry at a cost of no more than \$100. However, traffickers, who have been taking advantage of the situation, continue to blackmail refugees and force them to pay as much as \$1000 to enter the Sudanese territories.

Palestinians from Syria in Sudan are scattered across Khartoum, Khartoum Bahri (North), and Omdurman.

In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees said their houses have been subjected to property-theft following rubble-clearance works in the camp.



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Residents of the Uruba Street, in Yarmouk, said their houses have been ravaged and walls demolished, resulting in mounds of rubble.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus 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.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
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Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In the meantime, UNRWA staff workers have started clearing debris from Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

On October 15, 2021, UNRWA rehabilitated the Tiberias and AlSafsaf schools along with the local clinic in Deraa Camp.

On September 25, a UNRWA delegation inspected the condition of the Agency's premises in the camp after the Syrian regime lifted its tough blockade on the area.

The residents expressed hope that life would go back to normal in the ravaged camp in the near future and that reconstruction projects would create employment opportunities.

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Deraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city,



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Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools.