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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



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

Child Labour Increasing among Palestinian Refugee Children in War-Torn Syria

- Residents of Hindarat Camp Appeal for Urgent Reconstruction
- Humanitarian Situation in AlSabina Refugee Camp Exacerbated by Power Crisis
- Palestinian Refugees Rally in Northern Syria over Squalid Conditions



Latest Developments

The psychological effects of the prolonged Syrian conflict have been devastating, especially for vulnerable Palestine refugee children.

The twelve-year conflict in Syria has left its mark on the entire country, but for Palestine refugees, already one of the most vulnerable groups in society before the conflict, have been amongst the worst affected. Many Palestine refugee children have lost their homes and in some cases a family member as well. Many have experienced displacement, trauma, intense fear and disruption to their normal lives.

Child labour has substantially increased since the conflict began.

Schoolchildren have also been subjected to bullying and psycho-physical violence by their employers.

The warfare has also had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugee children said they have been deprived of childhood joy as they can neither buy snacks at school nor ice-cream from local shops. In the best of cases, a Palestinian child in Syria receives a pocket money of no more than 500 Syrian Pounds in a country where a small chips box costs over 1,000 pounds and a sandwich at school costs more than 1,200.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled Syria and provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.



AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria. Hundreds more have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Meanwhile, activists and civilians sheltered in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been appealing to all concerned parties to work on reconstructing civilian homes and facilities that have been reduced to rubble all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict.

Left without roofs over their heads, a number of families have been striving to reconstruct the destroyed walls of their homes in order to provide their homeless children with safer shelters.

Palestinian refugees have also been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.



Along similar lines, Palestinian families taking shelter in AlSabina refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the chronic power outage which they said has also affected their access to potable water.

Civilians said the power crisis has made life unbearable in the area and urged local authorities to take serious measures in response to their appeals.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aid, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In the meantime, displaced Palestinian refugees have rallied in Deir Ballout camp, north of Syria, protesting their deteriorating living conditions in the poorly-equipped facility.

The refugees called on AFAD, UNRWA, and all other concerned parties to take up their responsibilities regarding the squalid conditions they have been struggling with in the poverty-stricken area.



They further urged the international human rights institutions, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Turkish authorities to take immediate steps in response to their appeals.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

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.