



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



"Palestinian Refugee Assassinated South of Syria"

- Health Situation in Daraa Exacerbated by Coronavirus Pandemic
- AGPS: 252 Palestinian Children Killed in War-Torn Syria
- UNRWA Delays Aid Delivery to Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Abu Anzah held in Syrian Gov't Jail for 6th Year

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Latest developments

Palestinian refugee Mootassem Mohamed Awad was fatally gunned down by anonymous assailants on the access road between AlMuzeireeb and AlTel towns.

Reporting from AlMuzeireeb, south of Syria, an AGPS news correspondent said Mootassem, aged 23, and survived by his wife and son was assassinated by unidentified gunmen.

The victim was allegedly affiliated with opposition groups in Syria prior to the reconciliation deal struck with the Syrian regime. Over recent years, he has kept himself at bay from all warring parties.

Palestinians taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb town continue to express deep concern over the security situation in the area as reports have increasingly emerged on new assassination attempts targeting Palestinian refugees.

AGPS documented the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees in AlMuzeireeb town, home to 1,700 Palestinian families and hundreds of other families displaced from Daraa refugee camp.

Along similar lines, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, continue to sound distress signals over the absence of healthcare services and life-saving medical kit..

Reporting from southern Syria, an AGPS correspondent said no cases of COVID-19 contamination have been confirmed in the camp, raising concerns that the absence of advanced virus detection mechanisms might lead to a health catastrophe.



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UNRWA clinics and health centers have also gone out of operation in the government-held Daraa Camp, exacerbating the health condition of hundreds of displaced Palestinians taking refuge in the area. Dozens of sick and elderly civilians face mountainous journeys trying to reach AlKashef area for treatment.

The residents have stressed the need for sterilization moves, awareness-raising campaigns, and medical assistance in the poverty-stricken camp.

Founded in 1950-1951, Daraa Camp is home to over 650 displaced Palestinian families. As many as 4,500 families used to take shelter in the camp prior to the outbreak of the conflict in 2011.

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

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 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, according to UNRWA.

The camp was initially set up on an area of 0.04 square kilometers, and it now covers an area of 1.3 square kilometers. In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict. Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Meanwhile, a newly-released report by AGPS has kept record of the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria since the outburst of the bloody conflict in 2011.

The data pointed out that 129 children died under shelling; 15 were fatally shot by snipers; 11 were gunned down; two children were tortured to death; 22 drowned at sea; 26 others were killed in car



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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

blasts; and 34 died due to the blockade and medical neglect. Another 12 children died of other causes, including burns, suffocation, run-over accidents, and abduction.

At the same time, 48 Palestinian minors have been held in Syrian government prisons, where two others also died under torture.

Sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their moms' arms in Syrian prisons and whose fates have remained shrouded in mystery.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

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 zones.

In another development, UNRWA said cash grants for June and July months will be delivered to Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon as of July 16.

The Agency said in a statement that all registered families will benefit from the multi-purpose cash aid. Every family will be receiving a sum of 780,000 Lebanese pounds covering the months



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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

of June and July and a food allowance of 130,000 Lebanese pounds per every refugee.

An additional sum of 136,500 per refugee will also be delivered to the concerned persons as part of funds allocated by the EU regional trust fund MADAD.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income.

95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment.

In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country. The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families).

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data,



around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

The self-restriction of movement puts a strain on PRS' access to basic services, livelihoods and the formal labor market. In addition, a new policy implemented by the Ministry of Labor to limit informal and illegal labor by foreign workers has affected PRS and has resulted in the closure of several shops and businesses.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Ata Abdul Karim Abu Anzah has been held in Syrian government penitentiaries for the sixth year running.

Abu Anzah was kidnapped by the government forces on July 20, 2014. His family continues to appeal for information about his condition and whereabouts.

AGPS documented the secret internment of nearly 1,800 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, including dozens of women and minors.