



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



"UNRWA Decreases Cash Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon"

- Yarmouk Municipality Receives Return Applications
- Residents of Jaramana Camp Appeal for Humanitarian Aid
- Palestinian Refugee Student Participates in Dubai Expo 2021

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Latest Developments

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced a set of new measures regarding cash aid delivery to Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

UNRWA said in a statement that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered family will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every Palestinian family from Syria (PRS) will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD two times a year. UNRWA will suspend its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.

The new measures will be put into effect as of January 1, 2022.

Palestinian refugees from Syria have expressed their shock at the decision, saying UNRWA cash aid is a lifeline for them.

In its fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories. Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.



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UNRWA's factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, the Yarmouk municipality has started receiving applications from families wishing to return to the camp.

Families who have proven ownership documents are eligible to apply for return, pending authorities' final consent.

A number of residents said they have received entry permits from security forces deployed at a military checkpoint pitched on Street 30. The security forces denied having received instructions for greenlighting entry permits issued by the municipality.

Over recent years, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.



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The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and properties following the widely-condemned reconstruction plan proposed by Damascus Governorate.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

Meanwhile, residents of Jaramana Camp have appealed to expatriates formerly sheltered in the camp to assist cash-stripped families who have remained in the area.

Residents of Jaramana Camp, located a few kilometers away from central Damascus, continue to set off alarm bells over the lack of basic services and the dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area as a result of the steep rental fees, high rates of unemployment, the price hike, and poor sanitation.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

UN data indicates that before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including



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the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee student from Syria Lin Sakhr Salah participated in the ReWired Global Education Summit held as part of Dubai Expo 2020, staged between December 12-14.

Falah spoke about her dreams and the hurdles she currently faces as a Palestinian refugee.

Lin, a UNRWA student, said Palestinians' right to education is inalienable and expressed her pride of speaking up for Palestinian refugee students as part of this international event.

Lin, who was raised in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, is an information engineering graduate from the Damascus Training Centre (DTC) run by UNRWA.