



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



"Tension Running High as Civilian Killed in Yarmouk Camp"

- Palestinian Refugee Community in Lebanon Warns of Deteriorating Humanitarian Condition
- Sweden Sets Severe Citizenship Criteria
- Relief Items Distributed to Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

A resident of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, was pronounced dead after thieves hit him in the head with timber beams, causing his immediate death, according to eye-witnesses.

The victim's family was forced to cancel a lawsuit after they received death and intimidation threats.

The family and local activists slammed the silence maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian factions about crimes and violations, including property-theft, committed against civilians in the camp.

Eye-witnesses added that burglary attempts have been ongoing in Loubiya and Safad streets in the camp. Furniture, wooden planks, and belongings have been stolen around the clock.



Reports of theft have emerged in Yarmouk after the Syrian government forces grabbed hold of the camp and reportedly burglarized civilian homes. Pro-government troops stole electric kit, furniture, and wares, among other equipment.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military



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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.

The displaced families continue to appeal to all concerned parties to work on securing their safe return to their homes in order to retrieve their properties and belongings.

In another development, representatives of the Palestinian community from Syria in Lebanon's AlBekaa region met with Baalbek's Mufti (Islamic jurist) Khaled AlMusleh to discuss the situation of displaced Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Representatives of the Palestinian refugee community from Syria underscored the exacerbated situation of Palestinian refugees across the tension-stricken Lebanese territories.



Nearly 8,700 Palestinian families who fled war-torn Syria to Lebanon continue to endure an abject situation due to their ambivalent legal status and dire socio-economic conditions in the country.

UNRWA has identified Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.



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In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

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.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. 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 or forced deportation.

Meanwhile, the Swedish Migration Agency set tough requirements for becoming a Swedish citizen.

Applicants are required to prove their identity—quite a difficult task for Palestinian refugees who lost their documents as a result of war and years of displacement.

The applicant should also be 18 years of age or older, have a permanent residence permit (a temporary residence permit is not applicable), or have a right of residence or residence card (applies to the applicant if he/she is an EU citizen or a close relative of an EU citizen).



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In order to apply for citizenship, the candidate should have met the requirements for habitual residence (i.e. lived in Sweden for a certain amount of time) and have conducted him(her)self well while in Sweden.

Activists said such tough conditions make it almost impossible for refugees holding temporary visas and wishing to obtain permanent visas to apply for citizenship in the kingdom.

Since mid-July 2016, the Swedish authorities suspended permanent visa procedures for holders of temporary protection cards.

Over the past few years, thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among other migrants, who have applied for asylum in Sweden were only granted two-year temporary visas.

In the meantime, displaced Palestinian families from Syria taking refuge in Shatila and Burj Barajneh camps, in Beirut, received 250 bread bundles and 50 winter blankets as part of donations made by Palestinian refugees from Syria in Europe.



According to information collected by UN bodies, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that relief assistance is their main source of income.



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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).