



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين 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



"Syrian Official: 3,000 Persons Submit Demands to Return to Yarmouk Camp"

- Displaced Palestinians in Latakia Appeal for Urgent Intervention
- Indonesia Announces US\$1 Million Contribution for Palestine Refugees

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Latest Developments

Member of Damascus Executive Committee Samir AlJazaerli said 3,000 persons have submitted applications to return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp.

On February 4, a petition was handed over by the residents of Yarmouk Camp to Damascus governor Adel Anwar AlAlabi, urging local authorities to smooth the return of displaced families to their homes.

The 200-page petition, signed by 3,000 residents of Yarmouk Camp, called on the Syrian authorities to work on facilitating their immediate return to their homes and to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure and facilities. The residents expressed their readiness for voluntary work and to actively take part in reconstruction works.



Syrian media outlets quoted AlJazaerli as stating that existing risks make it impossible for him to green-light the return of families to cracked homes, saying that efforts have been underway to re-assess the condition of Yarmouk buildings and that a deal is about to be



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struck with the General Company for Engineering Studies and Consulting to that end.

AlJazaerli added that the 2004 organizational plan issued by the local committee and approved by the Ministry of Local Administration is no longer adequate owing to the “terrorist acts” carried out in the area.

The official also said that part of the old Yarmouk Camp is state property, which implies that the residents are not entitled to own the land but only the property built on it. In other areas of the camp the residents are entitled to own both.

He said a proposal was put forth by Damascus Governorate to build additional floors to families whose homes were destroyed.

According to the official, reconstruction projects will see the day as soon as they are green-lighted by the Executive Office and the Regional Committee.

He said a local services department is to be established in the next few days to replace Yarmouk’s local committee. The civil committee will also be reactivated to carry on debris-clearance. Some 100 million Syrian Pounds have reportedly been allotted to that end.

AlJazaerli also pointed out the legal hurdles facing civilians’ return to Yarmouk Camp, saying serious measures will be taken to verify ownership documents and make sure that homes are not misappropriated.

He said several cases of disagreement over ownership have emerged after a number of civilians purchased property by means of verbal



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and unofficial contracts. A committee was formed in accordance with Law No. 10 of Decree 66 to work out such conflicts over ownership. Only officially accredited documents will be taken into account.

In another development, displaced Palestinians urged UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees to take serious steps in order to assuage their calamitous situation in Latakia and hand them over much-needed relief aids.

Activists said a meeting was held on March 12 at the Social Development Center in AlAyedeen Camp in Latakia to discuss the situation of displaced civilians.

A number of Palestinian refugees spoke up for the displaced community and called for an urgent response to their plight.

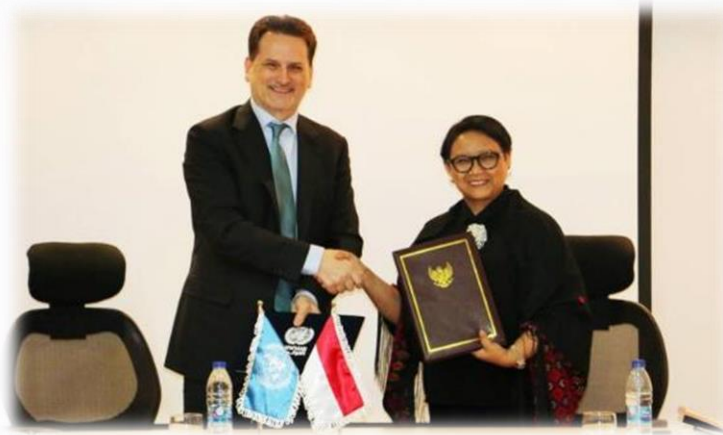
Hundreds of Palestinian refugees were deported from Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, Handarat Camp in Aleppo, and Daraa Camp to Latakia, seeking a safer shelter.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi paid a landmark visit to the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in Amman, Jordan. During her meeting with the Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, Marsudi announced a US\$ 1 million contribution for Palestine refugees, representing a remarkable five-fold increase of Indonesia's support to UNRWA.



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“Palestine is at the heart of Indonesia’s foreign policy, and in the heart of Indonesian people,” said Marsudi. “I know that UNRWA is facing another difficult year, so I wanted to come to you to show Indonesia’s support, hoping that this will attract increased support by other countries.”



Marsudi also visited an UNRWA school in Amman New Camp, meeting students and visiting a family of Palestine refugees. During a special dialogue with student parliamentarians, the Foreign Minister conveyed a message of commitment and empowerment to female students.

The agreement will help provide important health services to some 29,000 Palestine refugees - and food assistance to over 9,500 - living in and around Jerash refugee camp in Jordan. The support will focus on a particularly vulnerable community known as Ex-Gazans, in reference to the Gaza Strip where they originate from.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening



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poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA program budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.