



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



"5 Homes in AlNeirab Camp Damaged by Fire"

- Civilian Assassinated in Daraa Camp
- Disinfectants Distributed in ALSayeda Zeinab Camp
- Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Call for Urgent Action by UNRWA
- Greece Transfers 1,000 Migrants to Hotels

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Latest Developments

A fire broke out in AlNeirab camp for Palestine refugees in Aleppo overnight on Monday, resulting in heavy material damage.

An AGPS reporter said five civilian homes sustained serious damage. No injuries were reported.

The fire was reportedly caused by a short circuit overheating.

Activists have appealed to UNRWA to take urgent action in order to help civilians reconstruct their destroyed homes.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.



Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from



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overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In another development, a dead body was found in Daraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

An AGPS reported said Ibrahim Abd AlAziz Emara was fatally gunned down by anonymous assailants near his home in the camp.

The assassination sparked panic among the residents of the camp.



A couple of days earlier, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Basem AlMutleq was assassinated by anonymous gunmen outside of his



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home in AlMuzeireeb town, in Daraa's western outskirts, south of Syria.

Over recent years, Palestinians taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb town have expressed deep concern over the security situation in the area after assassination attempts have increasingly emerged in the area.

AGPS has documented the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees in AlMuzeireeb town, home to 1,700 Palestinian families displaced from Daraa Camp.

Meanwhile, detergents and disinfectants were distributed by Fatah Movement in AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, to help the residents fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the past five weeks, sterilization drives have been held by Fatah in displacement camps and communities across the war-torn country.

Recently, AGPS expressed has deep concern that the lack of transparency maintained by the Syrian government regarding the pandemic will result in a catastrophic situation in displacement camps, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

AGPS said it fears coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

The Syrian government has reported only 29 cases of confirmed COVID-19 tests and two deaths from the virus.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt have called on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aids, amid the economic hardship inflicted by COVID-19 outbreak in the Sissi-led country.

The refugees have slammed UNRWA for dragging its feet over their calls for help on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

As of Wednesday, the Middle East's most populous country had seen 178 deaths from the virus. The World Health Organization says about 13% of those infected in Egypt are healthcare workers.

The country has a night-time curfew in place, and schools, universities and mosques are closed.



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Doctors tackling coronavirus in Egypt have told the BBC they are worried about shortages of protective equipment and feel their concerns are not being taken seriously enough.

In the meantime, on Tuesday, April 14, Ylva Johansson, the EU commissioner for home affairs, announced that around 1,000 vulnerable migrants currently living in camps on the Greek islands would be transferred to empty hotels.

Johansson said this measure, in combination with the Greek government, Greek locals and the UN Migration Agency was putting "EU values in practice, even in such trying times."

According to latest UNHCR data, there are currently around 39,100 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers resident on the Greek islands. They are spread across camps that have places for little more than 6,000 people.

Two migrant camps on the Greek mainland have already been placed into lockdown because of positive cases of the coronavirus being found there. Strict quarantine measures are also imposed in the most notorious migrant camp on the Greek island of Lesbos.

However, human rights groups have been repeating since the start of the coronavirus crisis that it is almost impossible to maintain the required distance between people in the camps. Another measure that all European citizens have been required to carry out -- frequent hand washing -- is also very difficult in a camp where several thousand people might share one water tap, or have no access to any hygiene facilities if they are outside the official camp spaces.



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Various human rights groups and international organizations are continuing their call to empty the camps completely in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, Greece has suffered 102 deaths from the pandemic and the current nationwide lockdown is due to be lifted, or reassessed by April 27.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction. AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

