



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



"Vigil Held in Ramallah to Protest Assault on Palestinian Refugee Woman"

- Activists Slam Reaction of Popular Committees to "Beirut Embassy Incident"
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Arrested in Istanbul
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Rally Outside of UNRWA Office in Gaza
- During Holy Ramadan...Palestinian Refugees Struggling with Multiple Hardships in Syria

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Latest Developments

Dozens of Palestinian refugees joined on Thursday, April 15, a vigil held by the Unified Palestinian Movement (UPM) in Ramallah in solidarity with an elderly Palestinian woman from Syria who was slapped on her face by an embassy staffer in Beirut.

Last week a man called Atallah AlHassan, from the Palestine Embassy in Beirut and a Fatah affiliate, reportedly slapped the woman on her face as she joined a vigil held outside of the embassy to push for urgent humanitarian assistance.

UPM urged the Prime Minister to launch a fact-finding committee in order to hold the Palestinian Ambassador in Lebanon and parties involved in the assault to account.

UPM warned that it will escalate protest moves in cases serious responses to the assault would not be made and promised to speak up against the case at legislative elections.

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



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another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

Along similar lines, activists and CSOs have strongly condemned a statement issued by popular Palestinian committees in Lebanon in response to the assault targeting a Palestinian woman and other protesters outside of the Palestine Embassy in Beirut.

The activists said the statement enflames political divisions between Palestinian refugees and lacks factual data regarding the assault outside of the Beirut Embassy.

In another development, Palestinian refugee from Syria Abdul Rahman Dasouki was arrested by Turkish police in Esenyurt city, in Istanbul, on April 15.

Abdul Rahma, who fled Syria's Yarmouk Camp, was arrested after police found out that he is a non-holder of the temporary protection card "kimlik". He has been held in a repatriation center in Istanbul.

Abdul Rahman and his family illegally entered the Turkish territories in 2018 and were arrested by Turkish border guards. They were released after they presented their Palestinian identity documents and handed a verified security check. Abdul Rahman, aged below 18, did not receive the document.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria joined a vigil held outside of the headquarters of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza to urge the agency to



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transfer their cash grants and rental allowances of which they have been deprived for four years.

The protesters slammed UNRWA's Director of Gaza operations Mathias Schemale for failing to live up to his promises and turning his back on their appeals for urgent humanitarian action.

Sometime earlier, Schemale promised to increase efforts in order to tone down the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by Palestinian refugees who returned from Syria to the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Schemale promised to reach out to donor parties in order to help construct housing units for Palestinian refugees from Syria in the besieged enclave and to secure rental allowances to the displaced families.

Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees say they have been deprived of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.



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According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In the meantime, after more than 10 years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

This year's Holy Ramadan month has been tougher for Palestinian refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories, as the coronavirus outbreak means that many PRS have not been able to reunite with or provide for their families.



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Several PRS families have been scattered in displacement camps set up in northern Syria and on borderlands with the war-torn country. Scores of others have been stranded in reception facilities set up in European and Asian countries, where they have been facing dire living conditions due to overcrowding, poor hygiene, and lack of access to vital services.

At the same time, hundreds of families taking shelter in displacement camps in northern Syria continue to struggle for survival as they have been deprived of much-needed items and vital services, particularly healthcare, at a time when the novel coronavirus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people around the world.

Palestinian refugees in/from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and forced thousands to become internally displaced.

UN data indicates that as many as 120,000 Palestine refugees have fled war-stricken Syria since 2011, including 28,000 to Lebanon.

The Syrian conflict has impacted Palestine refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories. There used to be 560'000 countrywide, mainly in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus and Deraa.



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According to the UN, today, some 440,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria, more than half of them are internally displaced, and nearly all require sustained humanitarian assistance.