



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 Pledges Increasing Efforts to Protect Palestinians from Syria in Gaza"

- Kuwait to Provide \$1.5 Million to Support UNRWA
- 248 Palestinian Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Fall Prey to Enforced Disappearance in Syrian Jails
- Vaccination Campaign Launched in Yarmouk Camp

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Latest Developments

Director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, Mathias 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 (PRS) in the besieged enclave and to secure rental allowances to 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.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

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.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.

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.

Along similar lines, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Ahmed Nasser al-Mohammed al-Sabah, announced a \$1.5 million contribution to UNRWA.

Speaking at the third strategic dialogue conference on UNRWA, which was held through visual and audio communication technology, at the joint invitation of Jordan and Sweden, the Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of the



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role of the international community and the United Nations in ensuring the stability of UNRWA's financial situation so that it can accomplish its tasks, provide basic livelihoods, care and protection for Palestinian refugees, preserve their dignity and safeguard their rights.

Al-Sabah said: "Kuwait's contribution comes in support of its noble objectives aimed at ensuring and protecting Palestinian refugees and securing the delivery of aid and providing them with key services."

Al-Sabah reiterated his call for the need to develop ideas, develop strategic approaches and plans, and to work to create a funding sustainability that would enable UNRWA to cover escalating costs, adding that the continued budget deficit poses a real threat to the Agency's mission.

The UN agency is suffering from a financial crisis as the United States froze \$65 million in aid on January 23rd.

Meanwhile, Some 248 Palestinian residents of Khan Eshieh Camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, among them women and children, have been secretly held in Syrian government jails.

The detainees' fates and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS documented the death of 616 Palestinian refugees under torture in state-run prisons in Syria.



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In the meantime, a campaign to vaccinate children aged below five years-old against poliomyelitis has seen the day in Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

In live photos, medics and paramedics appear touring residential alleyways in order to immunize children.

Thousands of Palestinian and Syrian children who have gone displaced from their homes in war-torn Syria, have been left without life-saving vaccination.

A blockade which had been imposed by the Syrian government forces on Yarmouk Camp for years took away the lives of dozens of Palestinian children as a result of medical negligence, medicine dearth, undernourishment, and the spread of fatal diseases.

At the same time, UNRWA's Health Programme said the mobile clinic allotted to the residents of Yarmouk Camp has been operative and continues to provide assistance to dozens of patients, including children, elderly people, and expectant women.

UNRWA said that it will provide primary health care services to more than 400 Palestinian refugee families who returned to the camp and who are in need of medical treatment.

Sometime earlier, Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, Prafulla Mishra, pledged that the Agency will continue to provide vital service to Palestinian refugees who have recently returned to the camp.



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