



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



"Palestinian Refugee Woman Succumbs to Coronavirus in Northern Syria Displacement Camp"

- Belarus Embassy in Damascus Suspends Entry Visas
- Family of Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria Appeals for Information
- Water Network Rehabilitated in Jaramana Camp

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Kifayat Khaled Amayri has died of coronavirus in Deir Ballout displacement camp, north of Syria.

Kifayat tested positive for the virus last week. Her health condition took a turn for the worse due to very low levels of blood oxygen and the absence of healthcare services in the area. She breathed her last at the Military Hospital in Efrin.

The victim's family have appealed to the concerned authorities in Syria and international humanitarian organizations to take urgent action regarding the alarming situation in displacement camps set up in northern Syria, where neither medical staff nor equipment are available.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

AGPS stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with medicines, detergents, and disinfectants in order to help the



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displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

AGPS calls on the national and international humanitarian organizations and concerned authorities to set an emergency plan in order to help curtail the highly-contagious virus.

In another development, the embassy of Belarus in Damascus updated Palestinian refugees and Syrian nationals on its decision to suspend visa issuance.

Eye-witnesses said the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus requested that persons who applied for visas show up at the Embassy and retrieve their documents. The Belavia Belarusian Airlines has decided to suspend tickets for Palestinian refugees, Syrians, and Yemenis.

Palestinian refugees, including those who fled war-torn Syria, have been subjected to dire humanitarian conditions on the Polish-Belarus borders.

Speaking with the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria, a number of migrants said dozens of Palestinian refugees, among them women, have been trapped near Poland and left without roofs over their heads under extremely cold weather conditions. Neither food nor water are available in the area.

Polish and Belarusian border guards arrested scores of migrants who attempted to cross the border. People caught by authorities are subjected to heavy beating and intensive search before they are



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locked up in isolated locations and get robbed of their mobile phones and property. They are ultimately pushed to the Belorussian borders.

Over recent months, hundreds of people from places like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Africa have been trying to cross the border illegally every day. Poland has declared a state of emergency in the region and plans to build a wall on the border.

The Polish parliament has also passed legislation that human rights advocates say aims to legalise pushbacks of migrants across its borders in breach of the country's commitments under international law.

In the meantime, the family of Palestinian refugee Hani Saleh Akleh continues to appeal for information about their relative's condition and whereabouts.

Hani has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the ninth consecutive year.

The family called on ex-prisoners in Syria who have met Marwan or have pieces of information about his current condition to reach out to AGPS.

Hani was born in 1976 and raised in AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq. He is the father of five children and worked as a driver with the local Municipality in Hjeira town.



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He was arrested at the Qaws checkpoint on October 25, 2012 after a masked collaborator dragged him out of a bus passing through the area.

The family reached out to the Syrian Presidency, Prime Minister, justice and defense ministers, and Damascus governor as they fruitlessly sought to find information about Hani.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

In another development, the Charity Committee repaired the main water tank feeding the neighborhoods of Balat and AlQuteiah in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

Residents of Jaramana Camp, located a few kilometers away from central Damascus, continue to set off alarm bells over the lack of basic services and dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area as a result of the steep rental fees, high rates of unemployment, the price hike, and poor sanitation.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

UN data indicates that before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including



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the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.