



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 Tents Swamped by Heavy Rain on Greek Island"

- Syria's AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees Gripped With Gas Shortage
- UN Delegation Visits Aleppo's AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Austria Contributes EUR 2 Million to Support Palestine Refugee Agency
- Winter Clothes Handed Over to Displaced Palestinian Students in Syria

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees taking shelter on the Greek island of Kos said their tents have been uprooted and others have fallen apart as torrential downpours have swamped refugee camps set up on the island.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media show dozens of refugees lying in the streets, without roofs over their heads, while their tents have been dismantled by the rain showers.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian families, including some 200 refugees from Syria, have expressed concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has overwhelmed the southeastern European country.

The refugees have denounced the absence of vital services, including health care, housing, relief assistance, and power and water, and called on the international human rights organizations to take urgent action in response to their appeals.



Over recent years, Greek refugee camps have reportedly been running at three times their capacity. Overpopulated refugee camps



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cause a shortage of resources, not least healthcare. Often mental health issues are overlooked, despite many refugees having experienced severe trauma

A few months earlier, UNICEF warned that the number of unaccompanied migrant minors staying in overcrowded reception centers on the Greek islands exceeds 1,100, the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis in early 2016, calling on European countries to do more to protect vulnerable children.

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.

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.

Along the same line, dozens of cash-strapped families in AlHusainiya refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, said they have been deprived of gas supplies needed for cooking and heating.

A resident said civilians have to line up for hours daily to try to get a gas cylinder.





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Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

Meanwhile, representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) showed up in AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo.

The UN delegation, led by UNFPA's Fabrizia Falcione, gained a closer look at the work mechanisms of Shams Project, which has been operating for nearly nine months in an attempt to empower women in the area.



The delegation met with registered women during awareness-raising sessions and professional training courses.

25 lighting devices were distributed in 25 residential alleyways to enhance night lighting and reduce sexual harassment, as part of a 16-day campaign against gender-based violence.



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In another development, the Government of Austria on Tuesday signed an agreement amounting to EUR 2 million with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's 2019 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal.

This contribution from Austria will support UNRWA cash assistance program to the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Syria and help ensure that over 20,000 Palestine refugees meet their basic needs.

“We are grateful for our long-standing partnership with UNRWA as it gives us the certainty that humanitarian assistance is provided to Palestinian refugees who are in critical need of emergency support”, said Astrid Wein, Austrian Representative in Ramallah. Austria stands ready to help. Our assistance will help our partner UNRWA to meet the most pressing needs of Palestinian refugees in Syria during the current regional crisis.”

“In particular, we welcome UNRWA's emergency program, which provides a protective environment for Palestinian refugees by maintaining access to basic services including education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as livelihoods,” stated Wein.

“On behalf of UNRWA, I thank the Austrian government for its generous support to UNRWA emergency operations in Syria, which will help tens of thousands of Palestine refugees affected by the conflict in Syria”, said Marc Lassouaoui, UNRWA Chief of Donor Relations.

“I also commend Austria for responding to the Agency's call for increased support for core health, education, relief and social



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services. We are most grateful for the remarkable increase of Austria's total contribution towards UNRWA in 2019, which has reached EUR 4.35 million this year," added Lassouaoui.

Austria is a long-standing supporter of UNRWA and has provided a total of EUR 25 million in aid over the past 10 years.

In the meantime, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, in partnership with UNRWA, distributed 175 boxes comprising winter clothes for displaced Palestinian schoolchildren in Sahnaya, in Rif Dimashq.

Hundreds of families displaced from Yarmouk refugee camp and other areas around Damascus have been subjected to a squalid humanitarian condition. Most of them have been living below the poverty line and deprived of access to vital services.