



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
الأونروا

"AGPS Alarmed by UNRWA's Decision to Decrease Aid for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon"

- Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Displacement Camps Lash Out at UNRWA Aid Cut
- 9 Years On, Tragic Traces of 'Mig Massacre' Still Present in Yarmouk Camp
- Fraud Networks Offer Fake Visas to Turkey

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

AGPS has expressed its deep concern over the repercussions of a decision by UNRWA to cut its cash aid for Palestinians from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon.

AGPS believes the decision is a sign of apathy regarding the abject humanitarian condition already endured by PRS in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories.

The decision is also a serious breach of UNRWA's humanitarian mission as mandated by the UN and the Agency's promise to assist Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operation, including Lebanon.

UNRWA said in a statement that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered family will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every Palestinian family from Syria (PRS) will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD two times a year. UNRWA will suspend its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.

The new measures will be put into effect as of January 1, 2022.

A number of NGOs leveled heavy criticism at the Agency. Association 302 for Defense of Refugees Rights, popular Palestinian committees in Lebanon, the Association of Civil Committees of Palestinians of Syria, and AlAwda Foundation in



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Lebanon have strongly condemned the decision and urged the Agency to backtrack on the new measures which they said would result in further despair for PRS.

The CSOs said any reforms envisaged by UNRWA should start by cuts of salaries for seniors and high-ranking staffers, adding that it is weird that a humanitarian agency rather cuts aid to such an extremely vulnerable category.

Palestinian refugees from Syria have expressed their shock at the decision, saying UNRWA cash aid is a lifeline for them.

In another development, December 16, 2020 marks the ninth anniversary of the so-called “Mig Massacre”, also known as “Abdul Kader AlHusaini massacre”, in reference to the onslaughts launched by the Syrian fighter jets on Abdul Kader AlHusaini Mosque, in Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

At the time of the attack, the mosque served as a shelter for hundreds of families who fled the deadly strikes on the camp. Dozens of civilians, including children and women, were killed in the massacre.

The event marked the largest mass exodus from Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Only a handful of families have regained access to the camp, after the government forces recaptured the area.

On this notorious occasion, AGPS calls on the Syrian government to lift the noose tightened around Yarmouk Camp, cease



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movement crackdowns, and put an end to all property-theft assaults targeting civilian homes and property.

The Syrian authorities should take serious measures in order to reconstruct destroyed property and rehabilitate vital facilities and infrastructure.

The regional and international humanitarian and human rights institutions should live up to their responsibilities regarding the Palestinian refugee plight and work on securing the refugees' right to physical and legal protection.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees from Syria have received warnings against fraud by networks involved in counterfeit visa issuance from the Turkish embassy in Jerusalem.

Recently, a number of PRS with Palestinian Authority passports have been deceived and have had their money withdrawn by fake offices in Damascus and Istanbul in return for visas that they have never received.

AGPS calls on PRS to never hand over their passports to offices or persons claiming they can issue visas on their behalf. Visas are exclusively issued by the Turkish embassy in Jerusalem. As of December 2021, the embassy said visas will no longer be granted to applicants who do not show up at the embassy.

Sometime earlier, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said visa applicants should show up at concerned offices, where personal photos are immediately taken and identity documents presented.