



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



"Residents of Khan Dannun Camp Denounce Price Manipulation"

- Palestinian Refugees Voice Disappointment over Meeting Between Palestinian Ambassador and UNRWA Director in Syria
- Residents of Hindarat Camp Denounce Property-Theft
- Khan Eshieh Camp Gripped with Chronic Power Blackout

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Latest Developments

Residents of Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said prices have skyrocketed at the local market, where expired and smuggled products have been sold at exorbitant prices.

The residents called on local authorities to take serious measures in response to price manipulation and violations of product safety rules.

Civilians have been forced to purchase vital food and non-food items, including bread, gas and fuel, from the black market at over twice their ordinary price. A gas cylinder is reportedly sold at 100,000 Syrian pounds. A liter of oil costs 4,000 SP while a kilogram of rice is sold at 3,500 SP.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of



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whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In another development, Palestinian refugees have expressed their dismay following a meeting between UNRWA's director of Syria operations Amany Michael Ibye and Palestinian ambassador Samir AlRefai.

The refugees said the meeting is fruitless, at a time when the embassy and UNRWA should have taken serious measures to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation endured by Palestinian and Syrian families in the war-ravaged country.

Eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond.



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Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee families sheltered in and around Hindarat Camp, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, have raised concerns over the increasing theft attempts and home-burglary reported in the area.

Several women have had their mobile phones and personal belongings stolen in public amenities and overcrowded markets. Power cables and car batteries have also been taken away, exacerbating the power crisis in the area.

In its Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal, UNRWA said that protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.



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In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, denounced the electricity rationing imposed by local authorities, saying an eleven-hour cut/one-hour supply has been implemented in the area.

A few days earlier, the residents said their lives are at risk due to loose electric cables.

Civilians have slammed the apathy maintained by local authorities regarding their appeals for urgent action. They accused the emergency committee of corruption and blackmailing.

Draped with water pipes and high voltage wires, the major fuse box that splits power from the grid in residential alleyways in the overcrowded Palestinian refugee camp put children's life at risk.