



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"15 Palestinian Refugees Coming from Europe, Neighboring Countries Arrested in Syria"

- Yarmouk Camp Residents Push for Urgent Reconstruction
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Bread Crisis in Khan Eshieh Camp
- Surgery Unit Opened Up in Syria's Jaffa Hospital

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Latest Developments

Over 15 Palestinian refugees were arrested by Syrian forces on their way back from neighboring countries and European destinations. The list includes 13 returnees from Lebanon. One refugee returned from Sweden and another from The Netherlands.

On October 12, 2020, AGPS issued a new report entitled “Europe: Deportation of Palestinians of Syria”.

The report takes Palestinians fleeing Damascus and its suburbs as a case study.

It highlights the life-threatening hazards of the forcible deportation of asylum seekers to Syria.

The report provides answers to some of the controversial issues raised by European right-wing governments regarding the security situation in and around Damascus.

The report refers to Denmark’s decision to strip 94 Palestinians from Syria of their visas on claims that Damascus has become a safe destination.

The report concludes that the arguments provided by Denmark and other governments claiming that Syria is safe to return to are not only counterfeit but they encourage European bodies to force their governments to take similar closed-door immigration policies.



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In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, who received permits to return to their houses and retrieve their property called on Damascus Governorate to remove debris from residential alleyways and greenlight reconstruction projects.

Residents of Deir Yassin neighborhood said their appeals for house reconstruction permits were turned down by local authorities.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees, particularly those taking shelter in Yarmouk, continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp continue to launch cries for help over their exacerbated situation due to the price hike, high unemployment rates, steep rental fees, and the absence of fuel supplies.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk's families have lived on sporadic aid handed over to them by UNRWA.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The



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situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area. Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, have called on the Syrian authorities to control bread distribution in order to avoid overcrowding outside of local bakeries.

The residents said military officers who show up in the area do not respect queues where elderly and sick people continue to line up for long hours.

The residents also said no special anti-coronavirus measures have been taken in the area, leaving civilians at high contamination risk.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Eshieh camp have spoken up against the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates



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wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

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Survival for the majority of Palestinian families in war-stricken Syria has largely hinged on relief assistance. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, Palestine's Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Samir AlRefai inaugurated on Thursday June 17 the surgery unit at the newly-rehabilitated Jaffa Clinic.

Located in AlMezzeh town, in Damascus, Jaffa Hospital was founded in 1970 to provide healthcare services to injured Palestinians.

Without their daily efforts Palestinian refugees would have limited or no access to healthcare and other vital services in Syria. These conditions have serious repercussions for the residents' mental and physical health. Palestinians must pay high costs to access clinics.

In pre-war Syria, Palestinian refugees, could receive healthcare, attend school, work, and own property without obstacles, although they notably still lagged behind Syrian nationals on a number of development indicators.