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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Palestinians from Syria Granted Protection Rights in Switzerland

- Vigil Held in Idlib to Protest Israel's Escalation in Jerusalem
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Denounce Medical Malpractice at UNRWA Clinic
- Rodents Sway Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria



Latest Development

A long battle of Palestinians with Syrian backgrounds has concluded, with those coming from the war-torn Middle Eastern nation winning protection rights under the UN Convention in a European country, according to Anadolu Agency.

Ghada al-Rayan, a Palestinian-Syrian human rights defender, told Anadolu Agency that the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland decided in favor of her family, granting them residency rights after “acknowledging the statelessness of Palestinian refugees from Syria and their right to protection.”

The plea by al-Rayan had sought an amendment in the description of Palestinian refugees coming from Syria from “de facto stateless persons or citizens of an unknown state to de jure stateless refugees.”

The Palestinian activist said Switzerland was “one of the first countries in Europe that have agreed to the fact that Palestinians who are born in Syria are also stateless and eligible to all rights under 1954-Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.”

The UN's legal definition of a stateless person is someone who is “not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law.” This means that a stateless person is someone who does not have the nationality of any country.

The 1954 Convention establishes minimum standards of treatment for stateless people with respect to a number of rights which



include, but are not limited to, “the right to education, employment and housing.” Importantly, the 1954 Convention also guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance.

In another development, Palestinian refugees and Syrian nationals joined a mass rally held on Sunday, April 17, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo to speak out against Israel’s latest escalation in Jerusalem and violent assaults on worshipers at AlAqsa Mosque.

Palestinians and Syrians lifted banners and chanted slogans condemning Israeli aggressions against peaceful worshipers at AlAqsa Mosque and desecration of the holy Islamic shrine.

Last week, Israeli occupation forces broke into AlAqsa Mosque and arrested dozens of worshipers. Over 160 were injured.

Meanwhile, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at the UNRWA-run clinic in the camp.

In a statement emailed to AGPS, the residents slammed the medical staff at the clinic for their apathy regarding the appeals of a number of patients for much-needed treatment and medicines, along with psychological support.

A resident said the doctor does not examine patients and prescribes wrong medication. Recently, a breastfeeding mother was the victim of a prescription error. An expectant woman also said she was mistreated by a female staffer.



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

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh 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 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 the meantime, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the spread of rats and mice across a number of residential neighborhoods.



Civilians attributed the phenomenon to flea stores and dry bread accumulated in and around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

Recently, live photos from the camp also showed trash mounds being piled up across residential alleyways.

Over recent years, residents of Jaramana Camp, located a few kilometers away from central Damascus, have 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, and price hike.

The acute water crisis has made the situation far worse. Civilians say that as a result of the dearth in drinking water they have been forced to purchase water from privately-owned tanks at extremely high prices.