



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 Refugees in Syria Raise Concern over Their Fate as US Imposes Caesar Act-Related Sanctions"

- **Palestinians from Syria Rally in Amsterdam**
- **Palestinian Refugee Student Earns Highest Score in Sweden**
- **UNRWA Delegation Tours Palestinian Displacement Camps in Syria**
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Latest Developments

At a time when the US has been intensifying sanctions as part of the so-called “Caesar Act” targeting anyone doing business with the Assad regime, thousands of Palestinian refugees continue to struggle for survival in the war-torn country, both in government-held or opposition-captured zones.

The Trump administration on Wednesday ramped up pressure on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his inner circle with a load of new economic and travel sanctions for human rights abuses and blocking a settlement of the country's conflict.

The State Department and the Treasury said 39 Syrian individuals, including al-Assad and his wife, had been designated for the new sanctions.

Others include members of the extended al-Assad family, senior military leaders and business executives. Many of those on the list were already subject to US sanctions, but the penalties also target non-Syrians who do business with them.

The sanctions are the result of legislation known as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, named after the pseudonym of a Syrian who worked with the military police and turned over photographs of thousands of victims of torture by al-Assad's government.

The implementation of the sanctions has led to a further deterioration of the exchange rate of the Syrian pounds, resulting in a worse economic situation for vulnerable families whose sole sources of income have been already affected by the bloody warfare.



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Nine years into the deadly conflict, the majority of PRS continue to live below the poverty line and are food insecure.

Even after the latest salary increase, a civil servant in Syria receives no more than 27 USD per month, a sum that fails to meet the basic needs of the cash-stripped families. A family needs a minimum of 150 USD per every single month in Syria to be able to purchase food items.

A UN report in 2019 said that an estimated 83 percent of Syrians live below the poverty line, and people are increasingly vulnerable due to the loss or lack of sustained livelihoods.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

The majority of Palestinians sheltered in displacement camps set up across the Syrian territories have remained at bay from political calculations and frequently refused attempts by all warring parties to drag them into the raging warfare, saying their priority is to secure safe shelters for their children and families pending a just and lasting solution to their refugee plight and return to their motherland—Palestine.



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In another development, Palestinian activists and refugees from Syria have joined a vigil held in Amsterdam to protest Israel's plan to annex larger swaths of occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank.

The demonstrators yelled slogans and lifted banners condemning the "unilateral move" and calling on the international community to take a firm stance in response.

Earlier this month, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, expressed concerns about the annexation plan.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said in recent weeks that Israel will annex approximately 30 per cent of the West Bank with measures coming into place from 1 July.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is seen as occupied territory under international law, thus making all Jewish settlements there -- as well as the planned annexation -- illegal.

Palestinian officials have threatened to abolish bilateral agreements with Israel if it goes ahead with the annexation, which would further undermine the two-state solution.

The annexation comes as part of US President Donald Trump's "Deal of the Century," which was announced on Jan. 28. It refers to Jerusalem as "Israel's undivided capital" and recognizes Israeli sovereignty over large parts of the West Bank

The plan states the establishment of a Palestinian state in the form of an archipelago connected through bridges and tunnels.



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Palestinian officials say that under the US plan, Israel will annex 30-40% of the West Bank, including all of East Jerusalem.

PA officials are outraged by Netanyahu's plan to apply Israeli law to about 30% of the West Bank. In response to the move, PA President Mahmoud Abbas announced last month that the PA would no longer be bound to any of the agreements with Israel, including on security issues.

The PA has also taken its battle against the sovereignty plan to the United Nations, seeking official condemnation by the international body against the expansionist move.

Meanwhile, Palestinian student from Syria Ines Kilani achieved the highest score as part of Secondary school exams (scientific branch) at Jensen Gymnasium Sändra School in the Swedish capital city—Stockholm.

Ines reportedly got full marks in all of her school exams.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian refugees have achieved success stories in Europe, challenging the traumatic upshots wrought by daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

In the meantime, director of UNRWA operations in Syria, Amany Michael-Ebye, paid a visit to Palestinian refugee camps in Hums, Hama, and Latakia cities.

During his tour, the UN official met with UNRWA staff members and Palestinian refugees along with civil servants.



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Amanya hailed the efforts made by UNRWA workers to help fight coronavirus.

Living conditions in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

Along similar lines, UNRWA's General Health Department called on registered Palestinian refugees to avoid overcrowding at its premises in its fields of operations to avoid further COVID-19 contaminations.

In a statement, the Health Department said UNRWA continues to take all precautionary measures to curb COVID-19 infections and protect the refugees at its installations.

It reminded the registered families to keep up social distancing, regularly wash their hands, and wear face masks.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.