



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

18-08-2020

No. 2856

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"10 Coronavirus Infections Reported in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria"

- Anti-Coronavirus Drive Launched in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Residents of Khan Dannun Camp Denounce School Furniture Price Hike
- UNRWA Extends School Registration Deadlines
- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest developments

A number of coronavirus infections have been reported in AlRaml Camp for Palestinian refugees in Latakia, raising concerns over an unabated outbreak of the deadly virus in the area.

Reports circulated on social media networks said over 10 cases have been recorded among the camp residents.

A number of infected residents have refused to reveal their names over bullying concerns.

Recently, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.

Over recent months, AGPS has also 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 recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.



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

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

Along similar lines, a nurse from AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees has launched an initiative aiming to provide free oxygen to coronavirus-stricken persons.

The nurse, called Amer Darwish, said people who have breathing disorders and need oxygen cylinders will receive them for free.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in AlNeirab refugee camp in Aleppo, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Dozens of cases have been reported in the area. Several coronavirus-residents refuse to reveal their names over bullying concerns.

In another development, residents of Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said prices of school furniture have soared with the advent of the new school year.

The residents condemned the Syrian government over a decision to give school furniture loans to civil servants only in the poverty-stricken area.

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



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

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 whom were live 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. Two UNRWA schools premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.

Many school children have dropped out or work after school hours to support their families. The camp also suffers from a high incidence of inherited diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anemia.

Meanwhile, UNRWA announced its decision to extend deadlines for registration of Palestine refugee students at its schools until the end of August.



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

UNRWA operates 711 elementary and preparatory schools in its five fields of operation, including eight secondary schools in Lebanon, providing free basic education for some 526,000 Palestine refugee children. In addition, technical vocational training and higher education is provided at eight Vocational Training Centres for approximately 7,700 Palestine refugees in all fields of operations and for about 1,600 students in 2 educational science faculties (teacher training institutes, one in the West Bank and one in Jordan).

Schoolchildren in UNRWA schools follow the host authorities' curricula and textbooks. UNRWA supplements these with its own materials on human rights.

In the meantime, UNRWA in Lebanon said new batches of cash aid will be transferred to Palestinian families displaced from Syria.

In a statement, UNRWA said every refugee will receive 70,000 Lebanese pounds as a food grant and an additional sum of 390,000 Lebanese pounds as part of donations made by the EU Trust Fund "Madad".

UNRWA called on the refugees to keep a distance of at least two meters at bank offices and to regularly wash their hands.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and



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

marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.