



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



"First Coronavirus-Related Death Reported among Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria Displacement Camps"

- Number of Migrants from AlNeirab Camp to Belarus Goes Up
- Civilians Subjected to Crackdowns at Regime Checkpoint in Syria's AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Residents of AlSabina Camp Facing Multiple Hardships

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Latest Developments

A Palestinian refugee succumbed to coronavirus on Sunday in Gindires area, north of Syria.

Mahmoud Salim Kablawi, aged 49, died of COVID-19, in the first such reported death among Palestinian refugees sheltered in the area.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.

Some 819 Palestinian families have sought shelter in Idlib, including 226 families in the city center, 152 in Atama, 60 in Akrebat village, and 60 more in Sarmada town. 50 families are taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

In another development, another batch of young men from AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, reached Belarus on Sunday, October 17, after they boarded a flight from Damascus International Airport.

The migrants intend to reach Germany through the Belarus-Poland borders to seek asylum in the Central European country.



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Last week, a group of eight people landed in Belarus. They are reportedly on their way to Germany.

Belarus has become a transit point for millions of migrants and asylum seekers fleeing conflict zones, political persecution, and financial deprivation.

A trip to Germany costs up to 6,000 USD, 3,000 among which are paid in the Belarus-bound trip.

The number of Palestinian youths migrating from displacement camps and government-held zones across war-torn Syria has soared.

Recently, scores of refugee families have made their way from their camps and shelters to Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt. Dozens of Palestinian refugee families fled Syria to Lebanon while scores of others crossed to Turkey from Idlib in a trip costing up to 1,500 per a single person.

Many of those who headed to Erbil fled to Turkey through the Iraqi or Iranian borderlands. Several youths have fled conscription in the war-torn country.

Poverty rates have reached a zenith in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and the refugees' lack of access to the local labor market.

In its "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", 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.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, 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.

Meanwhile, residents of AlHusainiya Camp denounced the crackdowns and movement restrictions they have been facing by Syrian security forces deployed at the main entrance to the camp.

A number of Syrian security officers reportedly refuse to pay the required sums of money for food items they purchase from local stores.

A so-called “Abu Ali Fateh”, former head of the studies department in the camp, sends his wife to get food and non-food items for free. A man called “Kanaan”, a relative of a regime officer, has also been mistreating and offending civilians and snatching goods from local shops.

Security forces have also imposed taxes on bus drivers and transportation vehicles passing through the area, forcing drivers to



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change destinations. This has led to an exacerbated transportation crisis.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees have raised concerns over the swift propagation of coronavirus cases in AlSabina Camp.

The refugees said the camp has been beset by the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when medical services and equipment are almost absent in the area.

Over recent months, dozens of Palestinian refugees in Syria have died of coronavirus. Their relatives refuse to reveal their names over bullying concerns.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aid, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In



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September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.