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من أجل فلسطينيي سورية

Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



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

Residents of Deraa Camp Sound Alarm over Property-Theft

- Building Collapses in Yarmouk Camp, Property-Theft Ongoing
- Cholera Cases Increasing in Syria Displacement Camps
- Palestinian Refugee Child Held in Syrian Prison with His Mother for 9th Year



Latest Developments

Property-theft attempts have increasingly been reported in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, as many families fled the area following the latest surge in violence and clashes.

A resident said the gang of thieves includes Abu Udai AlKader , AlSoudi, and Sakher, and others who are also involved in drug trafficking.

The residents called on local authorities to take serious measures in response to property-theft and to protect residents from home-burglary.

In another development, a four-story building fell down in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus. No injuries were reported.

Local sources warned of similar incidents due to cracks inflicted by heavy shelling by Syrian and Russian fighter jets.

The residents also warned that due to theft of iron from abandoned buildings similar collapses are likely to occur.

Maintenance works have been under progress to rehabilitate the Fija water network in Yarmouk Camp, extend power cables to Palestine Street, and repair the sewerage network. Civilians also continue to work on reconstructing their homes.

Palestinian families displaced from the area continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed



and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

Meanwhile, the Syria Response Coordinators Team said that new cholera infections are recorded almost daily in northern Syria, particularly in displacement camps in northwestern Syria (almost 25% of the total cases recorded in the area).

AGPS has frequently warned of the spread of cholera in displacement camps set up north of Syria, as a result of malnutrition and poor immunity, especially among vulnerable people sheltered in substandard facilities.

The residents have expressed fear that cholera will turn into an endemic in a country where the infrastructure, health care facilities, and vital services have been ravaged.

AGPS calls on Syrian authorities to increase water supplies in the region and provide vulnerable families with potable water to help them combat the deadly virus.

A few weeks earlier, the UN humanitarian relief coordinator for the country warned that the official declaration of a cholera outbreak in the Aleppo region of Syria represents a serious threat to people in Syria and the whole Middle East region.

AGPS also calls for a swift and urgent action to prevent further illness and death. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations partners should coordinate with health authorities to ensure a timely and effective response.

The outbreak was declared on 10 September by the Syrian Ministry of Health, following 15 confirmed laboratory cases, including one patient death. A total of 936 cases of severe acute watery diarrhea were reported between 25 August and 10 September, which led to at least eight deaths.



The outbreak is an indicator of severe shortages of water throughout Syria, an issue AGPS has been sounding alarm bells on for some time.

While the Euphrates levels were dropping with drought-like conditions and a national water infrastructure damaged by 11 years of war, much of the already vulnerable population of Syria is reliant on unsafe water sources, which may lead to the spread of dangerous water-borne diseases, particularly among children.

Water shortages are forcing households to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as changing hygiene practices or increasing household debt to afford water costs.

In the meantime, Palestinian woman Yasmeen Abdullah, 39, and her six-year-old child Obada have been forcibly disappeared in Syrian regime prisons for the ninth consecutive year.

They were arrested by Syrian security forces on July 27, 2013 at a government-run checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in ALTadhamun neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.

The family's 73-year-old father, Mawloud Khalid AlAbdullah, diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases and the mother, Dheiba, 65, diabetic patient, along with family members Ilham, 48, and Anaam, 33 have all been forcibly disappeared.

Unverified reports said the family is being held in pro-government penitentiaries in ALTadhamun quarter. Others said the family members are locked up in a prison in Damascus. The family's actual condition and whereabouts remain, however, shrouded in mystery.