



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



"Drug Trafficking Reported in AlNeirab Camp, pro-Regime Militias Held Accountable"

- DFLP Opens Up New Office in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Workers Denounce Salary Cut in Syria
- Italy Contributes EUR 3 Million Towards UNRWA Services for Palestine Refugees in West Bank and Syria

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Latest Developments

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been accused of running a network for drug trafficking in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas.

A number of civilians who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity said Liwaa AlQuds officers have been transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to the camp. Scores of militiamen who were forced into military conscription with regime battalions consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.



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In another development, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) – Syria Branch inaugurated on Friday, December 17, its new office in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

A DFLP member said the move comes amidst efforts to bring the situation back to normal in Yarmouk Camp.

In 2020, Free Palestine Movement and Fatah Movement reopened their offices in Yarmouk Camp. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine also rehabilitated the Raja Abu Amasha medical centre.

On October 8, 2021, the Syrian Endowment Ministry greenlighted holding prayers at Abdul Kader AlHusaini Mosque.

Entering its 11th year, the Syrian conflict has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country. In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the torment inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees working in social development centres and kindergartens run by UNRWA in displacement camps across Syria said they have been receiving very low salaries.



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The workers called on the Agency to increase their salaries and pay them on a monthly basis.

According to AGPS data, 30 Palestinian refugees have been working at Social Development centres and kindergartens in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, some of them for over 25 years. The majority have been receiving an average of 60,000 Syrian pounds (less than 20 USD) per month.

UNRWA has over 30,000 employees, most of them Palestine refugees and a small number of international staff, in two headquarter offices (Gaza and Amman), five field offices (Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and West Bank), and in four Representative/Liaison Offices (New York, Geneva, Brussels and Cairo).

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Government of Italy signed on Tuesday an EUR 2 million agreement in support of Palestine refugee students in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The agreement was signed at the UNRWA Jerusalem Girls' School and was attended by the Italian Consul General in Jerusalem, Giuseppe Fedele, the Director of AICS, Guglielmo Giordano, and the UNRWA Director of Partnerships, Karim Amer.

UNRWA said in a press release that this project, with the support of the Italian Government, will ensure an adequate environment for 46,000 UNRWA school students in the West Bank,



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guaranteeing that 96 UNRWA schools are capable and ready to identify child protection issues and provide necessary support, as well as improving the service delivery of education and promote students' digital literacy.

This support comes in addition to the EUR 1 million the Government of Italy contributed towards health and protection services for Palestine refugees in Syria. This funding will enable UNRWA to sustain the provision of primary, secondary and tertiary health care at 23 of its health centres and health points.

In addition, the contribution will help the Agency to extend its protection services and awareness programming over the next 12 months by covering one staff member and supporting various protection activities, trainings and workshops.

“Over the years, Italy has proven to be a reliable and longstanding supporter of UNRWA, its mandate and activities across all fields of operation. By working to meet both the basic core service requirements and the longer-term needs of more than five million Palestine refugees, UNRWA continues to serve as an essential anchor of stability in the region,” said Giuseppe Fedele, Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem.

“Through these generous contributions, the Government of Italy has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to Palestine refugees across the Middle East. In particular, understanding the vital importance education plays in supporting the children and the youth of the West Bank to develop their full potential,” said Karim Amer, UNRWA Director of Partnerships. “The breadth of



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contributions the Government of Italy is giving in support of UNRWA showcases their importance as a key donor to the Agency and its backing of all Palestine refugees.”

In 2021, the Government of Italy has provided predictable and diverse funding to UNRWA supporting activities across the Agency’s priorities.