



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



"800 Palestinian Families Returned to Syria's Daraa Camp"

- Mortar Shell Slammed Into Palestinian Neighborhoods in Daraa
- Palestinian Activist Yaser Aamayari Released from Syrian Prison
- Anti-Coronavirus Sterilization Campaign Launched in Palestinian Refugee Schools in Syria
- Detergents Distributed in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

Daraa camp used to be home to some 10,500 Palestine refugees before the conflict in Syria led to large scale destruction and displacement. All UNRWA facilities in the camp have suffered high levels of damage and nearly 90 per cent of the camp residents were displaced.

The opening of schools was aimed to be a symbol of hope, particularly for the camp's children, many of whom have only known a world of war and devastation.



Humanitarian conditions have gone remarkably worse in Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees due to the price leap, poor infrastructure, and absence of vital services.

Activists attributed the situation to the fallouts of the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. 80% of civilian homes and property were destroyed.



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Along similar lines, a mortar shell was dropped on Daraa's northwestern town of Tseil, local sources have reported.

The mortar shell was reportedly fired by the Syrian government forces, resulting in material damage.

Palestinian refugees seeking shelter in T'seil, in the southern Syrian province of Daraa, continue to launch cries for help over the exacerbated socio-economic conditions they have been enduring.

Meanwhile, Palestinian relief activist Yaser Amayri was released from Syrian government prisons, where he was held along with a number of Palestinian refugees.

Yaser was arrested in April 2019, along with other refugees, after they were summoned to questioning by Syria's Palestine Branch forces.



AGPS has documented the secret detention of over 1,770 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups.

In another development, the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has embarked on a sterilization



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campaign at its schools in Jaramana and Khan Dannun refugee camps, in Rif Dimashq.

Toilets, classrooms, and corridors were sprayed with alcohol and disinfectants.

Last week, UNRWA announced its decision to suspend classes in its schools in Syria after more people have been diagnosed with Coronavirus across the MENA region.

War-ravaged Syria also announced a number of strict measures despite the government saying it has no confirmed cases.

There are concerns that the number of infections is being withheld by the government, with some Syrian lawmakers having questioned the official reports.



The Syrian government announced a series of precautionary measures, including closing schools and universities until April 2.

Following a Cabinet meeting Friday evening, the government also said it was reducing working hours in public institutions and canceling all cultural and sporting events, and all other events involving large gatherings, for the time being.



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Syria also says it has taken preventive measures at all ports and border crossings. It has suspended travel with neighboring countries Iraq and Jordan, and it has halted religious tourism for a month.

Other countries across the Middle East have already taken steps to contain the pandemic, including halting flights and imposing self-quarantines.

UNRWA is the main provider of humanitarian assistance, protection and basic services to 438,000 Palestine refugees who remain in the country, and who have been among those worst affected by the crisis. Almost 60 per cent of Palestine refugees in Syria have been displaced at least once.

In the meantime, the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) handed over detergents and disinfectants to vulnerable Palestinian families in Jaramana refugee camp.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus. Many Palestine refugees took refuge in Jaramana because of the low rent rates.