



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



"Palestinians of Syria Urge UNRWA to Take Precautionary Measures against COVID-19 Outbreak"

- Situation of Palestinian Refugees Exacerbated by Coronavirus Outbreak in Lebanon
- Anti-Coronavirus Awareness Campaign Launched in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums
- Displaced Palestinian Families Panic-Stricken as Syrian Gov't Strikes Daraa
- Palestinian Refugee Abdul Rahman Mashasha Secretly Held in Syrian Gov't Jail for 6th Year

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in Syria have appealed to the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to take precautionary measures in order to prevent a swift propagation of the coronavirus.

The refugees also appealed to the Agency to provide them with detergents, disinfectants, and paper napkins, and to carry out sterilization drives.



They said UNRWA should declare a state of emergency in its clinics and health centers in all of its fields of operations and around the clock and to equip clinic rooms for quarantines and intensive care.

The refugees also demanded that the Agency carry out home check-ups to identify coronavirus contaminations and transfer patients to medical quarantines.

The further appealed for urgent cash and food assistance to vulnerable families.

Along similar lines, the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has been exacerbated by the movement restrictions, closure of vital facilities, and curfew imposed by the Lebanese authorities to prevent a further propagation of COVID-19.



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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 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.

Over recent days, Palestinian refugees along with NGOs and UNRWA staff have embarked on a sterilization campaign as part of their fight against the coronavirus in refugee camps in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, civil society organizations have launched an awareness raising campaigns to help civilians take precautionary measures against coronavirus.

Leaflets with medical tips and hygiene instructions were distributed as part of the initiative.



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Some 13,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.



In the meantime, a state of panic has overwhelmed Palestinian refugee community in Gilin town, in Daraa's western outskirts, after the Syrian government forces hit the area with missiles, resulting in five deaths and several injuries, including among children.

Civilians said shelling and bloody shootouts between the government forces and former opposition affiliates have forced dozens out of their homes.

Palestinian refugees who have returned to Gilin camp, after they fled the shelter due to the rampant shelling, have sounded distress signals over the unbearable situation they have been enduring in the area. Infrastructure has sustained massive destruction in the warfare.



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Located some 25 kilometers northwest of Daraa's city center, Gilin Camp was home to 5,000 families displaced from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Abdul Rahman AlMushasha has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian government prisons for the 6th consecutive year.

A resident of Ein Terma, in Rif Dimashq, the refugee was arrested on February 03, 2014, and transferred to an unidentified location. His condition and whereabouts have not been identified.

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



AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.



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Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.