



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



"Palestinian Refugee Succumbs to COVID-19 in Syria Displacement Camp"

- Syria Meeting Discusses Dire Situation in Palestinian Refugee Camp
- UNRWA Sets Eligibility Criterion for Access of Lebanon Health Center
- Displaced Palestinians Warn of Property-Theft South of Damascus
- Palestinian Brothers Mohamed and Mootaz Badawi Held in Syrian Gov't Jail for over 3 Years

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Latest developments

Palestinian refugee Kamel Mohamed ALSafouri, a resident of AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, has died of coronavirus.

Palestinian political factions in Aleppo sent a petition to UNRWA, urging the Agency to take immediate action in response to the coronavirus outbreak in the camp.

The petition also called on UNRWA to equip the camp with medical equipment and medicines to help the residents fight the deadly virus.

In another development, a meeting was held in AlHusainiya camp between civil society representatives, pro-government parties, and women empowerment groups in order to discuss the deteriorating situation in the camp.

The meeting tackled UNRWA's vital role in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the poor infrastructure and absence of vital services in the area.

The residents also said that they have been enduring frequent water and power blackouts along with an acute shortage in much-needed food items.



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High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

Offensives launched on the camp using MIG warplanes led to the death of dozens of civilians in AlHusainiya Camp and a massive material destruction. Bloody shootouts between the opposition outfits and the Syrian government forces culminated in the latter's takeover of the camp on October 9, 2013.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said people who have coronavirus-related symptoms including breathing disorders, dry cough, and fever along with those who tested positive for the virus but cannot quarantine themselves at home are entitled to medical assistance at the Siblin center.

UNRWA and medics from Doctors without Borders (MSF) will examine the patients and decide on whether they should be quarantined at the Siblin center.

Over 470,000 Palestine refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in as many as 39 professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally



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citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

The conflict in Syria has forced many Palestine refugees from Syria to flee to Lebanon in search of safety. Nearly 29,000 of them are receiving UNRWA assistance in the country, including cash assistance, education, health care, and protection.

Meanwhile, reports of burglary continue to emerge in AlHajar AlAswad neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees have been taking shelter.

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.



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In the meantime, Palestinian brothers Mohamed Ali Badawi and Mootaz Ali Badawi have been held in Syria government jails for over six years.

Both were arrested in AlHajar AlAswad area, near Yarmouk Camp. Their family continues to appeal for information.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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 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.

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



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tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.