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## التقرير اليومي



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

### **Palestinian Refugees Denounce Property-Theft in Yarmouk Camp**

- Folkloric Palestinian Event Held in Northern Syria Displacement Camps
- US Department of State: Syria Unsafe for Migrant Returns
- Vaccination Campaign Launched in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria



## **Latest Developments**

Residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have called on Syrian authorities to take urgent action in response to increasing burglary and violence.

Recently, thieves barged their way into abandoned houses on Street 15 to steal iron and metallic items.

Gangsters have also been using violence and white guns to terrorize civilians who protest burglary.

Civilians' appeals for urgent action have gone unheeded.

Reports of burglary continue to emerge in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees had 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.

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.

In another development, Hooz Center for Social Development in AlBab city, in northern Syria, launched on Tuesday the "Palestinian Folklore Week" as part of "All for Our Country" campaign.

Participants at the event performed Palestinian folkdances and recited traditional songs and proverbs. The festival also presented



stories and videos about Palestinian weddings and community gatherings.

Meanwhile, the US Secretary of State said Syria is still an unsafe place to return to.

Assistant Secretary of State Julieta Valls Noyes said: “Look, the situation in Syria is terrible, and we don’t believe that conditions are right in Syria for people to be able to return safely, voluntarily, with dignity, and sustainably.”

“It’s just not – it’s just not safe for people to return, and people – Syrians who have left the country don’t want to return voluntarily to Syria”, confirmed Noyes.

“So, we’re looking for new solutions for them and working with our partners around the world, because this isn’t an effort that just the United States is undertaking. Other countries also are resettling refugees. So we are looking for avenues to find more durable solutions for these refugees, whether it is helping them to integrate in the countries where they have fled in search of safety, providing programs and assistance to them where they currently are”, she added.

“But then for those people who are the most vulnerable and face the greatest danger if they were to return to their own country, we’re looking for solutions like resettlement”, stated Noyes.

“And we are confident that with all of the changes and all of the growth that we’re making to the refugee admissions program – whether it’s the Welcome Corps or the other initiatives that I talked about, we will be creating the conditions to bring refugees from vulnerable situations all over the world, whether it’s Syrians or Rohingya who are currently in Bangladesh or other people who need to flee to safety and to find solutions for them – again, working with our partners around the world, because this isn’t a burden or a responsibility that the United States is taking on alone”, said Noyes.

In the meantime, the Syrian Ministry of Health launched a widespread anti-coronavirus vaccination campaign starting on January 01 to January 26.



Vaccine doses will be made available to everyone, including Palestinian refugees, aged 18 or above.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Over recent years, AGPS has warned that limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps in Syria are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.