



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



"Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Escalate Protest Moves over UNRWA Aid Cut"

- Palestinian Refugee Camp of Latakia Swamped with Rainshowers
- Displaced Families Call for Immediate Return to Yarmouk Camp
- Residents of AlHusainiya Camp Denounce Fuel Manipulation

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon continue to rally outside of UNRWA offices in Sidon, Tripoli, Central AlBekaa, and Beirut to protest the Agency's decision to reduce cash aid for Palestinian refugee families from Syria (PRS).

The protesters have strongly condemned the decision which they said is a sign of apathy regarding the abject humanitarian condition already endured by the Palestinian refugee community in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories.

They added that the decision is also a serious breach of UNRWA's humanitarian mission as mandated by the UN and the Agency's promise to assist Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operation, including Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees have urged UNRWA to work on their unconditional return to their homes from which they have been displaced by the Israeli occupation since 1948.

Last week, UNRWA said in a statement that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered Palestinian refugee family from Syria (PRS) will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every PRS will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD two times a year. UNRWA will suspend its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.



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The new measures will be put into effect as of January 1, 2022.

Palestinian refugees have expressed their shock at the decision, saying UNRWA cash aid is a lifeline for them.

At the same time, a number of NGOs leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA and urged the Agency to backtrack on the new measures which they said would result in further despair for PRS.

In another development, heavy rains that rocked the Palestinian refugee camp of Raml in Latakia have exposed the poor infrastructure in the area.

In photos circulated on social media networks, residential alleyways appear to be flooded by rainfalls resulting in deluges of wastewater, in an area where the sewage system and infrastructure have been already ravaged by the 11-year warfare.

Over recent years, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlRaml Camp have been facing abject conditions due to the lack of financial resources, food price leap, high unemployment rates, and steep rental fees. Life has also been marred by the transportation crisis, frequent power/water outages, and the poor healthcare services.

Meanwhile, activists have called on Palestinian refugees families to submit applications at the municipality of Yarmouk Camp in order to return to the area and retrieve their property.



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Those who do not own original property documents are also entitled to submit demands for entry permits using copies of their ownership documents or power/water bills.

Recently, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

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 December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of



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the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In the meantime, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the manipulation of fuel supplies by state-authorized suppliers.

The residents have railed against frequent delays in the transfer of the 50 fuel liters allotted to them through the smart card used by the Syrian government to ration a wide range of subsidized goods, namely fuel, rice, tea, and sugar.

Civilians protesting fuel manipulation have been mistreated and terrorized by suppliers. A resident who filed complaints at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the Syrian General Corporation for Hydrocarbons, and the Directorate of Consumer Protection was told to reach out to authorities through the ad hoc hotline. However, he has received no reply so far.

As weather temperatures have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in displacement camps across war-torn Syria continue to struggle with multiple hardships.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugees said they have no heating equipment except for blankets and mattresses.



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The families have expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes this year due to fuel dearth, as a freezing winter season is about to unlock its gates.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.