



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 Refugees in Jordan Push for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance"

- Yarmouk Camp Students End School Year amid Traumatic War Memories
- New Coronavirus Cases Spotted at Migrant Shelter in Germany
- Refugees Deprived of Vital Items on Greek Islands
- Palestinian Refugee Hasan Amr Secretly Held in Syrian Prison for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

Displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan have urged the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide them with much-needed cash food and non-food items, in light of the hardship wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The refugees called on UNRWA to secure their access to hygiene kit and foodstuff.

They further appealed to the Agency to shell out cash grants as their socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the movement restrictions imposed across the kingdom.

A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.



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A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

In another development, students of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees received their grade transcripts from their schools in AlZahira, located over 2kms away from the camp.

Education chief in Yarmouk Camp, Walid AlKurdi, said that despite of the harsh living conditions endured by civilians and children in the area, Palestinian students have taken it upon their shoulders to earn the highest scores in the war-ravaged country and walked for kilometers to receive their school transcripts.

More than nine years of deadly warfare have imperiled the quality of education and access to educational facilities in the ravaged Syrian territories. Palestinian schoolchildren and university students continue to strive for academic careers that match their dreams for a better future.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.

However, several displaced Palestinian students have achieved outstanding academic results, despite the traumatic effects of the



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Syrian warfare. Nearly 50,000 Palestinian children have been attending classes in Syria.

At the same time, dozens of Palestinian teaching staff members have been arrested and sent to jail.

AGPS continues to appeal to the Palestine Liberation Organization and UNRWA, among all concerned institutions, to urgently step in and work on reconstructing destroyed schools, providing schoolchildren with the needed psycho-physical protection, and boosting children's access to education in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Meanwhile, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases among migrants in a center for asylum seekers in Sankt Augustin near Bonn has risen to 165.

On Monday, local authorities spoke of 130 cases of COVID-19 in the ZUE in Sankt Augustin, in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, up from 70 over the weekend. The district council said the asylum center, which has capacity for 600 people, currently has an occupancy rate of just over half that number.

After the first coronavirus case became known last Thursday, the local health office arranged for testing all residents and staff and quarantined the entire accommodation.



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InfoMigrants news site quoted residents as denouncing the lack of separation and delayed relocations. According to the testimonies, asylum facilities are prone to become hotspots for infections due to the high density of people.

According to the district council, 13 staff have also contracted the virus so far. All infected residents have been brought to separate parts of the facility and were only showing weak or no symptoms, the district council said.

"The situation is very bad," a refugee told InfoMigrants. "No attention is paid. I had the test on Friday and it was negative. We were separated from people with coronavirus. But today a friend of ours was taken to the care unit."

Palestinians from Syria in Germany are categorized as stateless refugees, according to the German law. The Geneva Convention stipulates that Germany grant nationality to those categorized as stateless refugees, in accordance with the German Nationality Law of 2000.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees said they have failed to secure potable water and food items on Greek islands, where they have to line up in long migrant queues for hours under the scorching sunbeams to get meals and cold water.

Camps in Greece have been under quarantine in recent weeks, with authorities trying to keep residents apart from locals.

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.



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AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Hasan Kamel Amr has been enduring an unknown fate in Syrian government prisons, where he has been held for seven consecutive years.

Hasan was arrested by Syrian security forces on April 9, 2013 at a checkpoint in AlZahira neighborhood, in Damascus. His condition and whereabouts remain mysterious.

AGPS has recorded the secret internment of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run penal complexes, among them 110 women.