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التقرير اليومي



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

**UN Official Shocked by Scale of Destruction in
Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria**

- Drug Abuse Increasingly Reported in AlHusainiya Refugee Camp
- Palestinian Refugees in Yarmouk Camp Slam Apathy of Political Factions
- Assassination Acts Increasing in AlMuzeireeb



Latest Developments

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini visited Syria from 15 to 19 January 2023, to meet Palestine refugees and Agency staff in Aleppo and Damascus. Together with the Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, Amany Michael Ebye, Lazzarini engaged with the communities in Nairab, Ein el Tal and Yarmouk camps, and had meetings with senior government officials.

During visits to Nairab and Ein el Tal camps in Aleppo, young Palestine refugees who study in UNRWA schools and vocational centres spoke about their eagerness to learn and find employment. Young women and men from the UNRWA vocational center asked for courses in the English language and software and applications development to catch up with 21st century labor markets. All of them asked for common workspaces with electricity and internet where they can study after school.

Students in UNRWA schools described their efforts to mitigate bullying, including through raising awareness, encouraging discussions and increasing access to sports and hobbies. They asked for more playgrounds to keep their peers busy with sports and play.

“Meeting young people whose families lost everything could have been only a depressing moment,” said the Commissioner-General. “Instead, these girls and boys and young people articulated themselves with so much energy and drive that I could see how far they could go if they received a small push. Like their peers everywhere in the world, these children crave learning and fun opportunities, they hope for better futures.”

Discussions with representatives of the Palestine refugee communities of Nairab and Ein el Tal showed the scope and scale of the hardship of the refugees in and around Aleppo. Their requests for very basic needs ranged from milk and diapers for babies to supporting cancer patients with treatment.

Lazzarini visited a family in Nairab camp in a home that now enables the access of a disabled grandmother. The home modification support project is implemented in partnership with UNDP. He also visited a family in a house that will undergo minor



repairs by UNRWA in Ein el Tal. In both cases, the refugee families showed immense gratitude that they have a place they call home. Both, however, lived in abject poverty.

During his visit, the Commissioner-General met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Faysal Miqdad, the Governor of Aleppo, Husein Diab, and the Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), Qasem Hussein.

He briefed the government officials on the Agency's relentless efforts to mobilize additional contributions from donor countries to help respond to acute needs such as the ones he witnessed in Syria.

“I was shocked by the level of destruction of houses and UNRWA premises in some Palestine refugee camps in Syria. UNRWA installations must be rehabilitated to provide services to refugees who have returned. This is happening in Yarmouk camp, thanks to funding from Spain, Italy and Japan. I was very impressed with the work done to rehabilitate two buildings that will host a school, a health and a community center.”

“I will continue to advocate for the Palestine refugees of Syria and call on donors to enable the repair of shelters, UNRWA schools and other premises. The near- total destruction of places such as Yarmouk and Ein el Tal caused unimaginable suffering. Undertaking repairs even if minor and making some of the basic services available will go a long way in instilling a sense of dignity and hope among Palestine refugee communities in Syria”, said Lazzarini.

Meanwhile, young men have reportedly been consuming drugs on the streets and at the schools of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya Camp have raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among schoolchildren and university students.

The warfare in Syria, which has now entered its eleventh year, has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugees in and outside the Syrian territories.



The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have strongly condemned a recent celebration held in the camp to mark the launch of a new political faction at the Arab Club.

Refugees said instead of paying huge sums of money on celebrations and commemorations, Palestinian factions should rather work on rehabilitating vital services and bringing life back to normal in the camp.

Entering its 13th year, the Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country. In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa, south of Syria, raised concerns over the unabated assassinations in the area.

Over recent days, heavy gunfire has been detected in the area, resulting in the death of three young men from Deraa's AlMuzeireeb community.