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## التقرير اليومي



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

### **Syria's Assad Issues Conditional Amnesty for Draft Dodgers**

- **UNRWA Damascus Training Centre Helps Palestine Refugees Gain Access to Labor Market**
- **Residents of AlSabina Appeal for Rehabilitation of Vital Services**
- **UNRWA Aid Items Distributed in Hums Refugee Camp**



## Latest Developments

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad issued an amnesty on Wednesday that pardons draft dodgers and helps them avoid prison if they report to duty within three to four months.

Syrians who escaped the mandatory military service and are inside the country will have three months to turn themselves in, while those abroad will get four months.

The decree applies to crimes committed before Dec. 21, the presidency said.

Aid agencies have said that the fear of conscription is a major reason for refugees not wanting to return to the country, which is in the throes of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The lack of opportunity in the country also often limits the benefits of such amnesties. The government had previously issued similar amnesties during the Syrian conflict.

The war, which spiralled out of an uprising in 2011, has killed hundreds of thousands of people and uprooted half the pre-war population, including Palestinian refugees living in the country.

Human rights data indicates that over 135,000 people, including over 2,000 Palestinian refugees, have been forcibly disappeared in Syria's state-run prisons since the conflict outbreak.

In another development, UNRWA celebrated the graduation of 336 students from the Damascus Training Centre (DTC).

Director of UNRWA operations in Syria, Michael Amany, acclaimed the strong determination of Palestinian refugees and their commitment to make their dreams come true.

Representatives of 28 companies attended the ceremony, held at the Jalaa Sports Hall, in Damascus.

Amany said 400 jobs were offered to graduates, many of them have already been shortlisted. 86.5% of DTC's graduates gain immediate access to the labor market.

UNRWA has been able to provide vocational training opportunities for thousands of Palestine refugees in Syria. Vocational training



has proven to be a vital lifeline in a region deeply affected by the conflict in Syria, which in 2023 has entered its twelfth year.

Vocational training courses include mechatronics, air-conditioning (AC) maintenance, sewing, computer maintenance, plumbing, and car electricity, along with medical, information, and engineering specialties.

Meanwhile, residents of AlSbina refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, denounced the poor infrastructure and absence of maintenance works in the area.

Over recent days, a big hole has been spotted on the main access road to the camp, engendering civilians' lives.

The camp has also been grappling with hackneyed sanitation networks. Pictures and videos circulated on social media show dozens of homes and residential alleyways as being swamped by wastewater.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.



In the meantime, UNRWA has started distributing food aid items in ALAyedeen Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Hums.

Distribution is carried out daily between 08:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Palestinians taking shelter in ALAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.