



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



### "Palestinians from Syria Facing Precarious Legal Status"

- Palestinian Refugee in Greece in Need of Urgent Medical Treatment
- Activists Level Heavy Criticism at Damascus Governorate over Yarmouk File
- AlRamadan Camp for Palestinian Refugees Gripped with Dire Conditions
- Trash Mounds Piled Up in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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## Latest Developments

The Syrian warfare has severely affected Palestinian refugee communities in/from the war-torn country (PRS).

PRS have been grappling with an ambivalent legal status and denied their basic rights, including the right to health care and access to the local labor market.

Several job announcements have excluded Palestinian refugees and persons with an equivalent status. This has been the case in the contest opened up by the Aleppo University on August 26, 2020 and the contest launched by Syrian bakeries on August 12, 2020 along with other jobs opened by the Syrian Central Bank, the Health Ministry, and other government-run bodies.

Palestinian refugees have also faced legal hurdles and complicated red tape as regards their right to property ownership.

Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees said their children aged below 15 have been barred from smart cards used by the Syrian government to ration bread and a wider range of subsidized goods, namely fuel, rice, tea, and sugar.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

PRS continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of



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access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 PRS are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Meanwhile, activists have called on the international humanitarian and human rights organizations, most notably the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, to secure urgent medical treatment to Palestinian refugee Mohamed Abdullah, displaced from Syria to Greece.

Mohamed, 24, sustained instep fractures after he was hit by a motorcycle. He needs an urgent surgery to repair his foot joint worth 1,362 Euros. The refugee secured a sum of 360 Euros so far.

More than 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Greece, where they live in filthy and overcrowded temporary camps, some for months or years.



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Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.

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

In another development, activists lashed out at Damascus Governorate over its reluctance regarding the situation in Yarmouk Camp, saying the Governorate has done little to improve vital services, reconstruct destroyed facilities, and clear rubble from access roads.

The activists called for handing over Yarmouk file to a local committee run by the Local Governance Ministry as had been the case a few years ago.

“All that the Governorate has done so far is the announcement of the reconstruction plan which, in reality, has made the situation far worse”, an activist told AGPS.

Over recent months, residents of Yarmouk Camp have strongly condemned the reluctance maintained by Damascus Governor regarding their appeals for reconstruction permits.

Sometime earlier, Damascus Governorate had agreed to the return of the residents on condition that the building they live in is habitable, the submitted ownership documents are valid, and the necessary approvals are issued by local authorities.



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Director of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said the return of displaced families to Yarmouk Camp has been taking place at a steady pace under the supervision of Damascus Governorate.

He said the return of families is contingent upon reconstruction of vital facilities and rehabilitation of water, power and sewerage networks.

In the meantime, residents of AlRamadan Camp for Palestinian refugees, southeast of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over the socio-economic crises they have been enduring as a result of poverty, unemployment, the acute dearth in vital items, including fuel, and the swift price leap.

The residents continue to appeal to all concerned authorities, particularly UNRWA, to take urgent action in response to the dire humanitarian situation they have been struggling with.

Founded in the 1950s following efforts made by UNRWA to that end, AlRamdan Camp for Palestinian refugees is located some 50 kilometers away from southeastern Damascus. The nearest city to the camp—AlDameer city—is located at a distance of nine kilometers.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the mounds of trash accumulated across civilian neighborhoods and around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases.



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Recently, live photos from the camp showed trash mounds being piled up across residential alleyways.

Local activists and civilians lashed out at the concerned authorities for dragging their feet over the exacerbated situation in the area, calling them to urgently step in and work on removing trash without further delay.

Over recent years, residents of Jaramana Camp, located a few kilometers away from central Damascus, have set off alarm bells over the lack of basic services and dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area as a result of the steep rental fees, high rates of unemployment, and price hike.

The acute water crisis has made the situation far worse. Civilians say that as a result of the dearth in drinking water, they have been forced to purchase water from privately-owned tanks at extremely high prices.