



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



"UNRWA: 55% of PRS in Lebanon Do Not Possess Valid Legal Documents"

- UNRWA Pledges Increase of Cash Assistance to Palestinian Refugees in Jordan
- Palestinian Refugees Stranded on Greek Island Launch Distress Signals
- Palestinian Minor Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jail for 6th Year

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Latest Developments

UNRWA said more than half of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon do not have valid legal visas, which has exacerbated their vulnerability and their precarious legal status.

According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

UNRWA said the lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and forced deportation.



In 2019, the decision of the General Security Office of the Government of Lebanon to deport Syrians who entered the country illegally after 24 April 2019, coupled with departure orders issued to PRS without valid residency who entered before that date, have also increased the fear of PRS of being deported to Syria.

In order to mitigate vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience, UNRWA said that in 2020 it will continue to provide vital



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humanitarian assistance to PRS and the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees in hosting communities.

Data collected by AGPS following contacts with popular committees in Lebanon indicates that 125 PRS illegally entered Lebanon; 100 PRS have had their identity documents seized by the General Security Directorate for months; and 75 others have received deportation orders.

The committees said PRS aged between 17 and 18 and who entered Lebanon as minors also face difficulties in renewing their visas.

Along similar lines, UNRWA said that in 2020 it will continue to provide basic services to PRS in Jordan, vowing to increase cash aid in order to help them address their most urgent needs and support the enjoyment of their human rights.

Under its 2020 Syria Crisis Emergency Appeal, the Agency said it will continue to provide all targeted PRS with cash assistance and address protection challenges and enhancing resilience.



Since the second half of 2018, UNRWA introduced a targeted approach with a focus on the most vulnerable PRS, who continued to receive US\$ 40 per person per month, while the rest of the



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caseload received a reduced allowance of US\$ 10 per person per month.

However, recognizing the difficult socio-economic conditions and widespread poverty faced by all PRS, in 2020 the Agency will increase this amount from US\$ 10 to US\$ 25 per person per month, in order to provide more meaningful support.

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.

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.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria sheltered in Thermopolis camp in Greece continue to sound distress signals over the exacerbated humanitarian condition they have been subjected to.

In statements emailed to AGPS, the refugees said they have been enduring medical neglect and poor hygiene, along with the lack of relief assistance and the propagation of poisonous reptiles in the makeshift tents they have been locked up in.

Some 400 Palestinian refugees from Syria have been stranded in makeshift tents and under-equipped reception halls on Greek islands.



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

In another development, Palestinian refugees Raed Hosam Shaheen has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons since 2014.

Raed, born in 1998, was arrested on January 05, 2014 in Ali AlWahsh Street, in Hjeira town, south of Damascus, as he attempted to flee the blockaded Yarmouk Camp.