



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



"Palestinian Refugees, NGOs Level Heavy Criticism at UNRWA"

- Rubble-Clearance Works Suspended in Yarmouk Camp
- Calls Launched for Coronavirus Vaccine Doses in Jaramana Camp
- Greek Islands: Migrant population down by 79%

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Latest Developments

Palestinian NGOs and activists have slammed UNRWA over its indifference towards the situation of displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon, who have been holding a sit-in outside of UNRWA office in Beirut for over six months running to protest the Agency's cut of its cash grants for PRS.

Association 302 for Defense of Refugees Rights expressed its deep concern over UNRWA's apathy vis-à-vis PRS' appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance and emergency cash aid.

The Association called on the Agency to urge donor parties to assume their responsibilities regarding UNRWA's funding crunch in order to enable it to continue to provide vital services to nearly 29,000 PRS in Lebanon.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas also condemned the recent decision by UNRWA chief to suspend cash aid for PRS, who have already been struggling with an abject humanitarian condition in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories.

By the end of 2021, UNRWA said that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered PRS will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every PRS will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD on two batches in 2022. UNRWA suspended its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.



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The refugees strongly condemned the decision which they said is a sign of apathy regarding the abject humanitarian condition already endured by the Palestinian refugee community in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories, where they have been denied vital services and access to the local labour market.

They added that the decision is a serious breach of UNRWA's humanitarian mission as mandated by the UN and the Agency's promise to assist Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operation, including Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees have urged UNRWA to resume delivery of cash grants on a monthly basis in order to enable them to pay their house rents and purchase food and medicines for their children.

They further called on UNRWA's protection department to coordinate with the Lebanese General Security Office in order to issue/renew visas and identity documents for displaced Palestinians from Syria and cover 100% of hospitalization fees.

The refugees handed over a memorandum to director of UNRWA operations in Lebanon Claudio Cordone, slamming the latter over the Agency's austerity policy.

In another development, the committee in charge of rubble clearance in Yarmouk Camp has suspended works to remove debris piled up across residential alleyways in the camp, sparking anger among the residents.



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Engineer Mohamed Mustafa Salman said the committee has suspended rubble clearance under the pretext of funding shortage.

He added that the residents have already taken charge of removing debris from their own houses. Mounds of rubble have been piled up in several neighborhoods in the camp.

The engineer said the committee has mismanaged the rubble clearance budget and left main thoroughfares with mounds of war debris.

Meanwhile, activists have called upon residents of Jaramana Camp to taken anti-coronavirus vaccine doses in order to help curtail the virus propagation in the camp.

The calls were launched following a recent decision by the Syrian Health Ministry to embark on widespread vaccination campaigns. Vaccines will be provided in Jaramana Camp starting Wednesday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m.

In the meantime, the number of migrants and refugees living on the Greek Islands was 79% lower in December 2021 compared to a year before, according to the Greek government.

The migrant and refugee population in all of Greece fell by 49%.

These figures were among the latest data on migrants and refugees published by Greece's government on Thursday (January 27).

The number of potential asylum seekers who arrived in Greece in 2021 was reduced by 58% on the islands and by 41% in total,



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compared to 2020, according to the figures released by the government.

In December 2020, a total of 64,627 asylum seekers reportedly resided in all migrant centers managed or supervised by the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, while as of December 2021, 32,647 resided in them.

On the Greek Islands, the largest decrease in the migrant and refugee population between December 2021 and December 2020 was recorded on Leros (96%), followed by Samos and Chios (each 88%), Lesbos (78%), and Kos (34%).

The Greek Minister of Migration and Asylum, Notis Mitarachi, made the following statement: "Two years ago we aimed to reduce the flows of people coming into the country and the effects of the migration crisis, in the local communities. Today, two years later, the tangible results of this policy allow us to look our citizens in the eyes."

Mitarachi added: "Both on the islands and on the mainland we have closed 86 migrant centers and the existing ones operate at half capacity. In 2022, we are now focusing on the big cities, Athens and Thessaloniki."

Rules introduced by the government in the fall of 2021 have kept thousands from accessing services such as food provisions.

Greek border guards have also been repeatedly accused of pushing back migrants, including Palestinian refugees, in the Aegean.