



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

22-04-2021

No. 3199

## التقرير اليومي

### الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Authority Slammed for Voting "No" to Sanctions on Syria over Chemical Weapons Use"

- Palestinian Refugee Released from Turkish Custody
- Vigil to Be Held Outside of UNRWA Office in Beirut
- U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Visits UNRWA following Announcement of Aid Resumption
- Food Items Distributed in Deraa Refugee Camp

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

## Latest Developments

The Free Palestinian Syrian Assembly (Maseer) has strongly condemned the Palestinian Authority's position regarding sanctions on Syria at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Voting on Syria at the world's chemical-weapons watchdog has shed light on its friends and the geopolitics of its 10-year old conflict.

Palestine was among the countries who voted 'no' to sanctions on Syria at the OPCW in the Hague on Wednesday (20 April).

Maseer said the vote made by Palestinian Authority is a revelation of the latter's involvement in attempt to cover up crimes committed by the Syrian regime against civilians using internationally-prohibited weapons.

The committee referred to the findings of reports conducted by international fact-finding committees, including OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) is responsible for identifying the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Syria used chlorine gas against civilians in 2018 and chlorine and sarin gas in 2017, the OPCW has previously found.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

The Syrian regime also massacred several hundred civilians using sarin gas in Ghouta, in the suburbs of Damascus, in 2013, before the OPCW began to investigate its crimes.

During the vote, Russia, which is fighting on the Syrian regime's side in its civil war, also led a Cold-War type bloc of no-voters, which included Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, diplomatic sources told EUobserver.

China lent its weight to the no-side, in the name of non-intervention in other states' affairs.

Iran and Pakistan also joined the 'no' camp. Nicaragua, Bolivia, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe said Syria should keep its full voting rights at the OPCW, despite massacring its own people with chemical weapons for years.

But all the EU countries represented in Wednesday's meeting voted in concord and the motion - to strip Syria of those rights - sailed through by 87 against 15, with 34 abstentions.

It was the first move of its type in the OPCW's 24-year history.

In another development, Palestinian refugee from Syria Abdul Rahman Dasouki, born in 2004, was released from Turkish custody, one week after he was arrested by Turkish police in Esenyurt city, in Istanbul, on April 15.

Abdul Rahma, who fled Syria's Yarmouk Camp, was arrested after police found out that he is a non-holder of the temporary



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

protection card “kimlik”. He has been held in a repatriation center in Istanbul.

Abdul Rahman and his family illegally entered the Turkish territories in 2018 and were arrested by Turkish border guards. They were released after they presented their Palestinian identity documents and handed a verified security check. Abdul Rahman, aged below 18, did not receive the document.

Meanwhile, local COSs have called on Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon to join a vigil slated to be held on Monday, April 26, outside of UNRWA office in Beirut.

The move comes in response to unjustified delays in cash aid delivery by UNRWA.

Speaking with AGPS sometime earlier, a Palestinian refugee said UNRWA’s cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA's factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

Along similar lines, United States Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea visited on Tuesday the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Lebanon Field Office where she met with the Deputy Commissioner-General of the Agency, Leni Stenseth and the Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon, Claudio Cordone.

Attending the meeting were the United Nations Acting Special Coordinator for Lebanon and Resident and Humanitarian



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Coordinator, Najat Rochdi, the Chairperson of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, Dr. Hassan Mneimneh and the Palestinian Ambassador to Lebanon, Ashraf Dabbour.

The visit follows the 7 April U.S. announcement to resumption of funding to UNRWA with a contribution of US\$ 150 million.

Shea was briefed on the situation of Palestine refugees and the work of UNRWA under the acute circumstances in Lebanon, with a focus on the Agency's response to COVID-19, including its support for the vaccination campaign.

"The message addressed to Palestine Refugees from the United States today is a message of reassurance and renewal of its historic commitment", said Stenseth. "I hope this strong display of confidence in UNRWA will help us protect the safety, health and future of the millions of refugees we serve. The United States' contribution comes at a critical moment, as we continue to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis in Lebanon.

The resumption of U.S. support will help UNRWA continue and scale up its services to more than 180,000 Palestine refugees from Lebanon and more than 27,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) present in the country. Services include education to more than 37,000 students at 65 UNRWA schools, health services at 27 health centres around the country, as well as cash assistance and support to the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon. As conditions in Lebanon deteriorate further, Palestine refugees will continue to require additional efforts in terms of assistance.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

“Like many in Lebanon, Palestine refugees are facing one of the worst socioeconomic crisis in a generation,” said Cordone. “UNRWA is expected to respond to the despair and match their expectations for more support. We need other countries to join the US in providing urgently needed support for Palestine refugees at this time of extreme hardship.”

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, UNRWA has adapted to online education, adjusted the delivery of its primary health services to ensure safe continued access for beneficiaries, and supported national efforts to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 in Lebanon. The Agency also established isolation and quarantine centres.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Red Crescent Organization distributed on April 21 food baskets to Palestinian families in Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

Over 600 Palestinian families sheltered in the area benefited from the humanitarian move.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.