



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 Refugee Appeals for Urgent Treatment in Turkey"

- Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Denounce Mistreatment by UNRWA Staff
- Palestinian Resistance Faction Calls for Reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp
- Austria Signs Agreements for EUR 7.7 Million to Support Palestine Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Daouah Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 7th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest developments

Palestinian refugee Firas Abdul Kader, currently taking shelter in the Turkish city of Izmir, said he has been denied admission into Turkish hospitals after he failed to receive the temporary protection card “kimlik”.

Speaking with AGPS, Firas said he entered the Turkish territories in mid-2018 with his wife and three children. They were all arrested in Reyhanli city for illegally entering the country and held in custody for 27 days.

“We’ve been requested to sign security documents every couple of weeks”, he said. “Up to now, we’ve not received temporary protection cards.”

“During the detention period, my family and myself had gone through very hard moments. I experienced horrible nightmares, not knowing whether I could leave the prison and provide for my children”, he further told AGPS.

He added that once he was released from prison, a doctor told him that he needed an urgent eye surgery. But the hospital administration refused to let him in because he does not hold a kimlik visa.

Firas continues to sound distress signals over his deteriorating health condition, saying he might lose sight at any possible time.

Hundreds of PRS have been unable to provide for their children and families in Turkey. A large number of companies, factories,



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and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.

A number of refugees said UNRWA continues to turn its back on their calls for cash and in-kind assistance and denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by UNRWA staff members.

Member of the Palestinian refugee community in Egypt Assaad Majdalani slammed the mistreatment the refugees continue to face by the director of UNRWA office in Cairo, Sahar AlJabouri who ordered the refugees to submit their demands online and stop showing up at the Agency's office.



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Scores of refugees have urged Sahar AlJabouri to step down, saying she only met them for half an hour over the past few months.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt continue to call on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aids, amid the economic hardship inflicted by COVID-19 outbreak in the Sissi-led country.

The refugees have slammed UNRWA for dragging its feet over their calls for help on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aid, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

In another development, media chief of Hamas resistance movement abroad, Refat Merah, has stressed the need to



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reconstruct Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and allowing civilians to return to their houses.

The Palestinian leader reiterated Palestinians' firm rejection of all attempts to alter the architectural and demographic identity of the camp and transfer the residents to another location.

He further urged UNRWA to live up to its allotted mission regarding Palestinian refugees in Syria and to provide them with the in-kind and cash assistance and relief services.

Meanwhile, the Government of Austria signed on Monday a multi-year agreement (MYA) for 2020-2022 amounting to a total of EUR 5.7 million with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

This MYA will support the UNRWA Health Programme in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). In addition, the parties signed a EUR 2 million agreement towards services under the Agency's Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal in 2020.

UNRWA said in a press release that the contribution from Austria for the UNRWA Health Programme will support the protection of Palestine refugees' health and will reduce their disease burden. Funds will go towards ensuring adequate and timely availability of essential medicines and supplies, as well as educational materials in UNRWA health centres and clinics in the occupied Palestinian territory.



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Austria's contribution to the Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal will benefit the UNRWA cash assistance programme for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Syria. It will help ensure that approximately 18,000 Palestine refugees meet their basic needs.

Some 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees who remain in Syria live in absolute poverty. More than 125,000 of them have been identified as extremely vulnerable. As of June 28, only 33 per cent of the Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal is funded.

“As a longstanding partner, Austria recognizes the high urgency of further and predictable multi-year support to UNRWA relief programmes. With our most recent contribution, we aim to strengthen the resilience of Palestinian refugees by ensuring their access to basic services. This comes at an important moment, as the COVID-19 pandemic translates into further hardship and challenges for the already dire living conditions in the West Bank, in Gaza and in Syria. We appreciate UNRWA's role and professionalism in providing the required support to Palestinian refugees where it is most needed in times of crisis,” said Astrid Wein, the Austrian Representative in Ramallah.

“On behalf of the Agency, I thank and commend the Austrian Government for these two timely and generous contributions and for entering into a first ever multi-year agreement with UNRWA. We hope that more countries will follow Austria's example and make the Agency's funding more predictable,” said Sami Mshasha, UNRWA's Officer in Charge, External Relations and Communications Department, Arabic language spokesperson.



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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Ahmed Awad Daouah has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the seventh consecutive year.

Ahmed was arrested by Syrian security forces on October 07, 2013 at a checkpoint in Yarmouk Camp.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, among them 110 women and girls.