



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

22-11-2020

No. 2952

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"Displaced Residents of Yarmouk Camp Denounce Property-Theft, Call for Urgent Return to Their Homes"**

- Ireland Announces Further €1 Million in Funding for UN Agency for Palestine Refugees
- Palestinian Doctor Dies of Coronavirus in Erbil
- Humanitarian Situation Exacerbated by Power Crisis in Khan Dannun Camp
- Greece to build New Camps to Cut Migrant Stays on Islands

+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

Residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, said their property and homes have been subjected to ongoing theft and burglary.

Eye-witnesses said they have caught sight of flocks of vehicles laden with belongings stolen from abandoned buildings in the camp.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Yarmouk and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

Reports of theft have emerged after Syrian government forces grabbed hold of the camp and burglarized civilian homes.

At the same time, Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk Camp continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

The refugees have slammed the reluctance maintained by local authorities in Damascus regarding their appeals to rehabilitate infrastructure and allow them to safely return to the camp.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.



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

The residents continue to express their willingness for voluntary work and for active contribution to reconstruction works.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

In another development, Ireland's Foreign Affairs and Defence Minister Simon Coveney T.D., announced on 19 November that Ireland was making an additional humanitarian funding commitment of €1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

According to DIPLOMAT news website, the move comes on the heels of Israel escalating tensions by tendering for more than 1,200 new housing units in East Jerusalem, a move the UN contends is a violation of international law. Observers believe the moves serve





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

to further undermine the viability of a Two State Solution to which Israel had previously committed itself.

The latest Irish funding addresses both humanitarian and development needs, providing emergency assistance to the most vulnerable whilst also supporting the Palestinian Authority in public service delivery and civil society organisations in their advocacy of human rights.

Dr. Jilan Abdalmajid, the Ambassador of the Mission of the Palestinian State in Ireland, reacted with appreciation for the humanitarian generosity of the Irish people: “We are sincerely grateful for the continuing solidarity and practical assistance from Ireland to Palestine. At times of deepest need, Ireland is always one of the first to step up and offer a helping hand. The Palestinian people and our leadership highly value the longstanding and committed bilateral relations between our two countries.”

In 1980, Ireland was the first European Union member state to endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state. In January 2011, Ireland accorded the Palestinian delegation in Dublin diplomatic status. A few months later, Ireland’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Eamon Gilmore, T.D. stated Ireland would “lead the charge” in recognising Palestinian statehood, but that it would not come until the Palestinian Authority was in full and sole control over its territories. In October 2014, Seanad Éireann unanimously passed a motion calling on the Government to recognise the State of Palestine. Dáil Éireann adopted the same affirmative position on Palestinian Statehood in December 2014.



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

In the last two weeks Israel has escalated the pace of attempting to copper fasten its position of dominance over the Palestinians by increasing the rate of illegal demolition of structures in the Palestinian Territories. Large-scale home demolitions in Wadi Hummus, a neighbourhood in southeast Jerusalem, an area under the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction but controlled by Israel Defense Forces as an occupying power, left the community almost entirely destroyed. The latest demolitions were accompanied by threats to demolish 52 West Bank schools, such as the Ras al-Tin primary school near Ramallah have inflamed the conflict.

The European Union, several of its member states, including Ireland, provided humanitarian funding for the construction of the school. The Israeli military confiscated construction materials and tools on four occasions between 31 August and 10 September, including the school's roof, desks, and chairs, under the pretext that the school lacked an Israeli-issued building permit. Israeli authorities deny as much as 98 per cent of Palestinian requests for building permits in Area C, defying Palestinians the ability to even repair if not improve, let alone build schools and basic infrastructure.

According to the Education Cluster, a forum that coordinates the humanitarian education response, Israel has partially or fully demolished three schools in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, so far this year, and 52 other schools are under threat of demolition. In 2019 alone, the Education Cluster recorded 328 education-related incidents, involving access restrictions, attacks on students and staff, and destruction of education infrastructure,



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

affecting 19,913 students, thwarting Palestinian children's fundamental right to receive a basic education.

Since the start of this year, the UN reported that Israel, as an occupying power, demolished 555 structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing 747 people, including 382 children, and adversely affecting 2,722 others. The structures included 217 residential properties and 45 water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Donor states had provided 93 of the Israeli-destroyed or seized structures as humanitarian relief.

Meanwhile, Palestinian doctor Rafaat Mohamed Jalil, who fled war-torn Syria to Iraq, died of coronavirus on November 20 in Erbil, the capital and most populated city in Kurdistan Region in Iraq.

The victim was born in 1964 in Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees. His parents are natives of Nzareth city, in Palestinian territories occupied since 1948.

Dr. Jalil, an ophthalmologist, graduated from Syrian schools before he traveled to Moscow for his PhD studies. He later returned to Syria where he opened his private clinic. He also worked at AlMujtahed Hospital and health centres in Syria. He is a founding member of Intralask International Centre of Ophthalmology.

In the meantime, residents of Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees have launched a cry for help over the power crisis in the camp and the acute dearth in fuel reserves with the advent of the winter season.



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

Civilians spoke out against the leap in fuel prices and gas cylinders as a cold winter season has drawn near.

High unemployment rates, coupled with a swift hike in prices have made life unbearable in the Camp.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

Along similar lines, Greece, on the front line of migration into Europe, promised earlier this month to build new reception



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

centres for asylum seekers and cut the maximum stay in camps on its now-overcrowded islands.

According to Reuters, authorities will have finished the construction of better-equipped camps on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos by the autumn of 2021, Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said. None of the asylum seekers would be on an island for more than six months.

“In 12 months from today we should not have any of the legacy reception system we are seeing today,” Mitarachi told a news conference called to present the country’s migration strategy over the next two years.

Authorities were restructuring the asylum service to introduce remote and digital applications in order to faster process a backlog of about 87,000 asylum requests, he said.

In September, a fire razed Greece’s largest migrant camp on Lesbos, leaving about 12,000 people stranded. Most of them have now been moved to a temporary tent camp.

The conservative New Democracy government, elected in July 2019, has taken a tougher stance towards migration than its left-wing predecessors. It has placed limits on an appeals process which previously took months or years to navigate.

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.





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