



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

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"Activists Call on UNRWA to Take Urgent Action Regarding Yarmouk Camp"**

- Rotten Food Items Distributed to Palestinian Refugees South of Damascus
- Palestinian Refugee Children in Syria Displacement Camps Subjected to Play Deprivation
- Palestinian Refugee Wins 4<sup>th</sup> Seat in Syria Science Olympiad
- Greek Authorities to Evacuate Migrant Camp

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## Latest Developments

Activists have called on UNRWA to take urgent steps in order to help with the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees and the reconstruction of vital facilities.

Activists said UNRWA should seriously and urgently work on reconstructing its schools and clinics in the camp which were destroyed in the warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers away from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).



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Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.

In another development, Palestinian refugees displaced from Yarmouk Camp to southern Damascus towns told AGPS that they received spoiled food aid items distributed by UNRWA a couple of days earlier.

The refugees said rat excreta has been spotted in the food packs delivered to them at UNRWA distribution centers south of Damascus.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee children have been deprived of the right to live a happy childhood in war-torn Syria due to simmering tensions, deadly shootouts, and destruction of leisure facilities.

At the same time, children's safety has been at constant threat due to the spread of unexploded war remnants.

Last year, a Palestinian child was pronounced dead after a cluster munition went Off in Syria's Handarat Camp, in Aleppo. The casualty—Shaifq Yakoob—succumbed to the wounds he sustained in the blast while he was playing outdoors. He was rushed to a hospital, but breathed his last shortly after.



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Available data from the International Committee of the Red Cross indicates that each year, large numbers of children are killed and injured by explosive remnants of war, such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict.

For the civilians and communities in war-affected Syria, the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Many innocent civilians, including Palestinian children, have lost their lives and limbs by disturbing or inadvertently coming into contact with explosive remnants of war. These weapons have also hindered reconstruction and threatened economic livelihood. Playgrounds, houses, hospitals and schools cannot be rebuilt until such weapons are cleared.

In another instance of childhood deprivation in Syria, a children's park was turned into a cemetery for war victims in Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

On July 27, 2012, the war machinery claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. Their bodies were all buried overnight in a collective pit dug in the playground. The area has become known as the "Martyrs' Cemetery".

The warfare in Syria, which has now entered its tenth year, has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been



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among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled Syria and provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.

AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria. Hundreds more have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

Meanwhile, Palestinian student Zaher Mohamed Fateh Anbatawi has won the fourth place in the final qualifiers of the Syrian Science Olympiad in the field of physics.

Zaher, a resident of Damascus city, also garnered outstanding school results.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances;



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and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In the meantime, Greece's Migration and Asylum Minister, Notis Mitarachi, ordered the evacuation of Vial camp, set on Chios Island, and the transfer of migrants to another facility.

The number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in the camp has been estimated at 160.

Palestinian refugees said they have failed to secure potable water and food items in the camp.

Migrant camps in Greece have been under quarantine in recent months, with authorities trying to keep residents apart from locals.

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.

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

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.