



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



**"UNRWA: 240,000 Palestinians from Syria in Need of Urgent Assistance"**

- Member of Pro-Government Militia in Syria Broker Release of Affiliate
- Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grappling with Gas Death
- Belgium Supports Palestine Refugees with Early Disbursement of 2022 Annual Funding Contribution

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



## Latest Developments

The protracted consequences of the Syria crisis, coupled with the socio-economic deterioration in Syria and the impacts of COVID-19, continue to pose grave humanitarian challenges to Palestine refugees.

Despite the overall reduction in hostilities in 2022, insecurity continues to affect the Palestine refugee community in Syria. According to UNRWA estimates, around 40 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria remain in protracted displacement.

The risk posed to civilians by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in areas that witnessed active conflict in the past, including some Palestine refugee camps, remains high.

The deteriorating Syrian economy and rising inflation is giving rise to a real threat of hunger. A drastic loss of purchasing power has increased fears amongst the population, including Palestine refugees, about their ability to meet their basic needs, in particular food.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), 12.4 million Syrians are now food insecure, an increase of 4.5 million over the previous year and the highest number ever recorded.<sup>1</sup> An UNRWA survey in May 2021 found that 82 per cent of the refugees interviewed now live on less than US\$ 1.9 a day and that 48 per



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cent of total household expenditure was spent on food, indicating severe distress within families.

A decade of crisis has undermined the social fabric that held refugee communities and the wider Syrian society together and pre-existing family and community-level support for women and girls is no longer guaranteed.

According to Agency records, female Palestine refugees account for 60 per cent of the most vulnerable Palestine refugee caseload in Syria.

PRS are being pushed into ever more negative coping mechanisms to survive, including missing meals, child marriages, child labour, debt and unsustainable borrowing practices. Families struggle to provide for the additional needs of the elderly and family members with disabilities.

In another development, member of Liwaa AlQuds brigade Mohamed AlSai'd, affiliated with the Syrian regime, has brokered the release of another affiliate called Shadi Majid Jamamsa.

Shadi was arrested on September 15, 2018 along with Samer Mahmoud Rafa', the former commander of the operations room in the brigade, by the Syrian security forces in Latakia city, on allegations of state terrorism arms sales to terrorist parties.

Local sources told AGPS that Shadi Jamamsa, a resident of AlNeirab camp, was released following a bargain with Muhammad



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Ahmed Al-Saeed, the brigade's commander, in exchange for money.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS has also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In another development, residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been grappling with gas dearth.

The residents said local markets have run out of gas and fuel, slamming the unequal distribution of gas cylinders across Syrian provinces.

As a result, civilians have been forced to purchase gas and fuel from the black market at over twice their ordinary price. A gas cylinder is reportedly sold at 100,000 Syrian pounds.



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Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

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.

In the meantime, the Kingdom of Belgium has advanced its annual contribution of EUR 7 million towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 2022 programme budget to support the Agency's services to Palestine refugees to the early part of 2022.



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This crucial and flexible funding is part of a current multi-year agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and UNRWA totaling EUR 21 million between 2021-2023.

This contribution enables UNRWA to continue delivering essential services to one of the most vulnerable populations in the Middle East during the early part of the year. These services encompass education for over half a million Palestine refugee school students, primary health care services to close to two million refugee patients, amidst a global pandemic and a social safety net for some 400,000 poor refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Consul General, Wilfried Pfeffer said: “Belgium is committed to sustainable and predictable support to UNRWA through our multiannual contributions and projects. Our support to UNRWA aims at ensuring the continuation of vital health, education and social services for Palestinian refugees in the region.”

Director of UNRWA Partnerships Karim Amer said: “The longstanding reliable support of Belgium and the recognition of the need for early disbursement demonstrates why the Kingdom of Belgium is such an important donor and a key supporter of Palestine refugees. More specifically, the diversity and flexibility of funding demonstrates an understanding of the complexities of the region and the need for a variety of services that support Palestine refugees of all ages.”



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In 2021 Belgium (including Government of Flanders) was the 17th largest donor to the Agency, with a total contribution of EUR 11,659,666 million.