



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

23-03-2021

No. 3169

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Yarmouk Camp Residents Condemn Apathy of Syrian Authorities"

- Classes Suspended in Jaramana Refugee Camp Due to Coronavirus Cases
- Report: Health Condition of Palestinians of Syria at Risk
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Granted Membership of Swedish Writers' Union
- AGPS Reiterates Calls for Sharing "Untold Stories" about Palestinians of Syria



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

Latest Developments

Activists and residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees have slammed Damascus authorities over their apathy regarding their appeals to reconstruct destroyed premises and facilitate civilians' return to the camp.

The refugees said none of the pledges made by Damascus Governorate regarding the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp have been materialized on the ground.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

A number of activists have 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.

On February 4, 2019, a petition was handed over by the residents to Damascus governor Adel Anwar AlAlabi, urging local authorities to smooth the return of displaced families to their homes.

The 200-page petition, signed by 3,000 residents of Yarmouk Camp, called on the Syrian authorities to work on facilitating their immediate return to their homes and to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure and facilities.

In 2019, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to



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

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.

In another development, the UNRWA-run Kafr Sabet Primary School in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said 1

grade classes will be suspended until the end of the week due to an emergency condition.

The residents said the measure was taken after a schoolchild contracted the novel coronavirus.

With the beginning of this school year, parents and teaching staff spoke out against the absence of anti-coronavirus drives in Jaramana Camp, saying no measures were implemented at schools and public facilities to protect civilians and prevent further contaminations. Schoolchildren are seen in crowds outside of their schools, most of them without masks.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.



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

A few months earlier, AGPS also warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Along similar lines, AGPS annual report about the situation of Palestinians of Syria (PRS) in 2020 said PRS' humanitarian condition has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of healthcare services in the war-torn country.

AGPS report said healthcare institutions in Syria have failed to protect PRS due to acute shortage in medicines and medical staff.

UNRWA said that 9,000 PRS have contracted coronavirus in 2020.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Hundreds of PRS have lost their jobs in the warfare and hundreds more have been wondering in the streets as they rummage around for livelihoods to feed their starved families.



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

The crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of PRS families are unable to meet their basic needs.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Meanwhile, Palestinian academic Ahmed Mustafa AlBash has been granted membership at the Swedish Writers' and Translators' Union.

AlBash told AGPS that the move carries two messages: On the one hand, it reveals that Palestinian and Arab refugees compete with Swedish people in the arena of intellectual and artistic production; On the other, it is a call for the Palestinian and Arab communities in Europe to pluck up their potentials and speak up for their inalienable causes.



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

Last year, the Swedish Documentation Center (Ajyal) issued an encyclopedia of Palestinian refugee camps entitled “Palestinian Camps in Syria” and prepared by researcher AlBash.

The encyclopedia seeks to document Palestinian camps in UNRWA’s five fields of operations (West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon) through narrative accounts shedding light on the historical background of the camps along with the socio-economic conditions experienced by the refugees. Live testimonies by displaced refugees also figure in the 248-page work.

Researcher Ahmad AlBash said at the time that the five-part encyclopedia is the by-product of exhaustive research that lasted for several years. It covers the socio-historical frames and specificities of 15 camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria.

In the meantime, AGPS renews calls for participation in the “Untold Stories” competition. This is your chance to tell your or someone else’s story that has been left out of history books and put your/their voice at the forefront of war literature.

We’re inviting you to write your own narrative as part of the “Untold Stories” competition. Your short story should focus on the tragedy that has befallen the Palestinians of Syria due to war-related incidents, most notably shelling, blockade, abduction, and displacement. The text should focus on a single experience.

To be shortlisted for the prize please send your well-written story to the following email: tellus@actionpal.org.uk



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

Our competition is open to anyone who has an untold story to share with us. Entry closes on April 15, 2021.

The winner will receive a prize of 200 USD. The second and third best stories will receive respectively 100 USD and 50 USD.