



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 Refugees from Syria in Gaza Call for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance"

- Mobile Clinic Established in Yarmouk Camp
- Displaced Families Return to Their Homes in AlTadhamun Neighborhood
- European Union Contributes EUR 12.6 Million to Support Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed AlGhadbane Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

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Latest Developments

Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees say they have been deprived of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that



deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In another development, sources close the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) said a mobile clinic will be dispatched by UNRWA to Yarmouk Camp to provide medical assistance to the residents.

Patients will be treated at the clinic on Wednesday every week at AlMansoura School.

Recently, AGPS has appealed to the Palestinian and international NGOs to provide medical and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian families who remained in Yarmouk refugee camp.

AGPS stresses the need to secure bread, drinking water, and vital food items to the residents, in light of the movement restrictions slapped across the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak.



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Civilians continue to lash out at UNRWA, saying the only action made by the Agency regarding their appeals is limited to awareness-raising messages and calls for home quarantines.

Unofficial statistics indicate that some 40 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Syrian security forces and Damascus Governorate have allowed another batch of families to return to AlTadhamun neighborhood and retrieve their homes and property.

Hundreds of Palestinian families had taken shelter in AlTadhamun neighborhood before they fled the area following the outburst of the bloody conflict.

In the meantime, the European Union (EU) renewed its commitment to supporting the work carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with a EUR 12.6 million contribution targeting Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan.

UNRWA said in a press release issued on Wednesday that the move comes as part of a larger EUR 43.2 million contribution to the Agency's emergency operations aimed at "Strengthening the



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Resilience of Palestinian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon”, in 2020 through 2021, and tailored also to support Palestinian refugees coping with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EU increased the initial allocation for 2020-21 with additional EUR 7.2 million in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

This new funding, from the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis (the EU MADAD Fund), will enable UNRWA Jordan field emergency operations to provide continued services to some 17,500 Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan. It includes regular unconditional cash assistance for families to cover their essential food and non-food item needs, as well as conditional emergency cash support to Palestinian refugees from Syria for unforeseen emergencies, enabling them to cope with their difficult economic situation in a safe way.

With the new funding, the EU continues to be a strategic and predictable partner to UNRWA, recognizing the vital work carried out by the Agency in meeting the basic needs of Palestinian refugees in the region.

“This additional assistance from the EU Trust Fund comes at the right time to support the efforts of UNWRA in addressing emergency operations for Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan, following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular through support to livelihood and protection services,” stressed the EU Ambassador to Jordan, Maria Hadjitheodosiou.



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“This assistance underlines, once more, that the European Union and its Member States are the largest contributors and most reliable supporters of UNRWA, an essential provider of vital services to millions of Palestine refugees in the region”, she added.

Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, Mohammed Adar expressed his appreciation to the EU for its continuous support to UNRWA saying: “On behalf of the Agency, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the longstanding partnership with the European Union. This generous contribution will help UNRWA to ensure that Palestine refugees from Syria are able to meet their basic needs and mitigate further deterioration in their humanitarian conditions.”

“It is more important than ever, under this uncertain environment due to the COVID-19 crisis, that we must work hand-in-hand to help the vulnerable Palestine refugees overcome major livelihood and economic challenges that they face every day,” he reiterated.

Over the past five decades, the partnership between the European Union and UNRWA has evolved, with the EU and its Member States becoming the largest multilateral provider of international assistance to Palestine refugees, representing more than half of UNRWA’s overall budget since 2019, and a key strategic partner committed to supporting UNRWA in the absence of a just and durable solution to the plight of Palestine refugees.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed AlGhadbane has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for eight consecutive years.



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Mohamed, a resident of AlAyedeen camp, in Hums, was arrested on April 5, 2012 at the Hasyaa checkpoint in Hums.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS 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).

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.