



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



### "Palestinian Refugee Children Traumatized by Syria Warfare"

- Situation of Displaced Palestinian Families in Deir Ballout Camp Exacerbated by Water Dearth
- Displaced Families Fear Unabated Coronavirus Outbreak in Northern Syria
- Humanitarian Situation Alarming in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Disinfection Drives Held in AlSayeda Zeinab Refugee Camp

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## Latest Developments

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 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.

Along similar lines, hundreds of displaced Palestinian families north of Syria continue to launch cries for help over their tragic living conditions in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp, saying an acute water crisis has made the situation far worse.

The refugees lashed out at the concerned authorities over their apathy regarding the acute dearth in drinking water, saying local tanks are being filled in just once week, forcing civilians to line up in long queues for hours to get a few liters.



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The families have also been forced to purchase water from mobile tanks at 400 Syrian Pounds per 20 liters. Every family needs an average of 30 liters a day.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in the camp urged UNRWA, PLO, the Turkish authorities, and the concerned NGOs to live up to their responsibilities as regards their calamitous situation and to provide them with much-needed cash aid, medical items, and relief services.

Meanwhile, concerns have mounted in displacement camps set up in northern Syria after two coronavirus cases were reported in the area.

Reporting from northern Syria, an AGPS news correspondent said the two coronavirus-stricken persons have been quarantined at their tents. Their condition is stable.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means 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.

AGPS stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with medicines, detergents, and disinfectants in order to help the



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displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

According to recent updates, more than 13,848 confirmed cases have been recorded in northern Syria.

AGPS is deeply concerned that the lack of transparency maintained by the Syrian government regarding the pandemic will result in a catastrophic situation in displacement camps, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

AGPS calls on the national and international humanitarian organizations and concerned authorities to set an emergency plan in order to help curtail the highly-contagious virus.

In the meantime, residents of AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the poor infrastructure and absence of vital services in the area, saying mounds of trash have been piled up across residential alleyways.

The residents further slammed local authorities for turning their back on their frequent appeals to rehabilitate unpaved streets and alleys, particularly in the southern corners of the camp.

The residents also said that they have been enduring frequent water and power blackouts along with an acute shortage in much-needed gas cylinders. The absence of means of transportation has resulted in movement restrictions that have made their access to areas outside the camp quite difficult.





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A few years earlier, offensives launched on the camp by regime forces using MIG warplanes led to the death of dozens of civilians in AlHusainiya Camp and a massive material destruction. Bloody shootouts between the opposition outfits and the Syrian government forces culminated in the latter's takeover of the camp on October 9, 2013.

In another development, disinfection campaigns have seen the day in AlSayeda Zeinab camp in an attempt to sterilize public facilities and main access roads.

Volunteers have also been delivering bread to the residents as part of anti-coronavirus protocols seeking to limit human contact.

Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring squalid conditions due to high rates of unemployment. Ten years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.

As a result, Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage has been inflicted on the camp.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came



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in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.