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من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Palestinian Refugees in Syria Overburdened by Price Leap, Food Shortage

- **Palestinians of Syria Denounce Mistreatment by Bank Staff**
- **Activists Warn Yarmouk Residents against Attempts to Turn Their Property into Bargaining Chips**
- **Palestinians among 450 Irregular Migrants Rescued off Greek Coast**



Latest Developments

As the conflict in Syria continues into its 12th year, Palestinian and Syrian families across the country are facing unprecedented levels of poverty and food insecurity. More Palestinian refugees and Syrian nationals are struggling to put food on their tables today than ever before.

Large-scale hostilities and mass displacement across the northern governorates, combined with a severe economic downturn, mean that the overall food security situation is rapidly deteriorating across the country, and families require support to meet their needs and rebuild their lives.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 12.4 million Syrians are now food insecure. This is an increase of 4.5 million in the last year alone and the highest number ever recorded.

Years of conflict, displacement, soaring food prices and a decline in the value of the Syrian Pound have put additional pressure on families who are now struggling to afford the basics.

Syria's continuous crisis has depleted community assets, erased livelihoods and eroded household and community resilience. Food systems have been severely disrupted across many areas, leading to widespread food insecurity and the need for food assistance to fight hunger and malnutrition.

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Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees said they have not received rice cash grants announced by UNRWA.

The refugees said distribution staff told them that no such allowances have been disbursed so far.



At the same time, a number of families said they received damaged banknotes from AlHaram and Bemo banks during the transfer of UNRWA cash allowances.

Upon more than once occasion, refugees denounced mistreatment as they show up at the company's office to withdraw their cash aid.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of refugees said they have been forced to line up for hours in overcrowded queues outside of the transfer companies.

In another development, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

With the return of a number of families to Yarmouk, prices of houses and property have skyrocketed in the Camp.

Prices of homes in their current condition in the Waseem residential area range between 65 and 108 million Syrian pounds while their prices ranged months ago between 30 and 70 million pounds.

The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and properties.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

Over recent years, human rights activists have accused dealers affiliated with the Free Palestine Movement, led by Palestinian-Syrian businessman Yasser Qashlaq, of standing behind the purchase of property from Yarmouk residents. The Nikken Syria company, which was founded with the participation of Iranian investors, has also reportedly been involved in such deals.

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 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 relief institutions 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).

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.

In the meantime, political advisor to the Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ahmed Al-Deek, all migrants (500) onboard the boat that suffered engine breakdown southwest of the Greek island of Crete were rescued.

Al-Deek the migrants, including Palestinians, have been rescued, adding that the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Greece is following up with the relevant Greek authorities to identify the Palestinian migrants.

The Migrant Rescue and Follow-up Cell had launched an appeal to rescue a boat carrying more than 450 irregular migrants, near the Greek island of Crete, after the migrants launched distress calls. Greek and Italian coast guards allocated two ships for the rescue operation after they boat run ashore due to violent winds.

AGPS data statistics indicate that 57 Palestinians from Syria, mostly women, children, and elderly refugees, drowned onboard the death boats to Europe, fleeing the tattered Syrian territories.

A number of casualties breathed their last off the Libyan seashore on way to Italy while others sunk in Marmara waters as they tried to reach the Greek coast. Dozens of migrants have gone missing.