



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



**"Palestinians in Northern Syria Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance"**

- AlSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grappling with Transportation Crisis
- UNRWA to Increase Aid to Palestinians of Syria
- Palestinian Refugees Raise Concerns over UNRWA "Eye Print" Survey
- Palestinian Brothers Ahmed and Mahmoud Tamim Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime



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## Latest Developments

Displaced Palestinian families in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya camps, north of Syria, have appealed for humanitarian aid from Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1948 (present-day Israel).

The families continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and all other local and international bodies regarding their tragic situation.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns. For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

Along similar lines, residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to secure transportation means to give them daily lifts to their destinations and workplaces.

Students, workers, and sick people have denounced the overcrowding and unpunctuality of public means of transport, saying they have been made to wait for over two hours daily to reach their destinations.



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Recently, Syrian security forces have fenced off access roads to AlSayeda Zeinab with sand barriers and without prior notice.

Informed sources told AGPS that the closure was carried out under the security pretext.

Palestinian refugees and Syrian families taking shelter in the area continue to speak out against the arbitrary crackdowns and movement restrictions slapped by the Syrian regime against the residents.

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 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.



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In another development, sources close to UNRWA said the Agency will increase its cash grants to Palestinians of Syria from 34,000 Syrian pounds per every registered refugee to 68,000.

Vulnerable cases will receive a sum of 104,000 Syrian pounds, up from the current 52,000 grant.

The decision has reportedly seen the day after Syria's Central Bank announced an increase in the exchange rate of USD for international organizations that are operative in the war-ravaged country.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees have voiced deep concern over an "eye print" survey to be carried out by UNRWA in its five fields of operations, primarily Lebanon.

The refugees said the project falls in line with increasing calls to resettle Palestinians in other destinations and negate their right of return to their homeland.

UNRWA spokesperson in Lebanon Huda Samra said the survey will facilitate the Agency's cash aid distribution and spare the refugees the complicated red tape.

Director-General of Commission 302 to Defend Refugees' Rights, Ali Huweidi, raised doubts about the eye print survey, saying a similar measure was carried out in 2015 and culminated in accurate data about the number of refugees in Lebanon.



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In the meantime, Palestinian brothers Ahmad and Mahmoud Tamim have been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for over seven years.

Ahmed was arrested on May 15, 2014. Mahmoud was arrested on March 12, 2015 during aid distribution in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

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 also documented the death of over 550 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).