



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



"Arbitrary Abductions on the Rise in Syria's Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees"

- **Palestinian Students Disappointed over "Degrading Treatment" at Dubai Arab Reading Challenge**
- **UNRWA: 52% of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Jobless**
- **Palestinian Refugee Ahmad Khaled Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Jail**

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Latest Developments

Residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to sound alarm bells over the simmering abductions carried out against civilians in the area.

The residents said they have been blackmailed over their appeals for release and protection.

Over recent years, several civilians, including children, have gone missing in Jaramana Camp. Palestinian child Zein Ahmad Taameh disappeared from AlAmeen Street in Jaramana Camp on Monday, April 1, on his way back home from Palestine School, run by UNRWA. Three-year-old Palestinian child Teym Samer Jamil Surur, a resident of Sakhnin Street in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq, has also gone missing since April 18. His family continues to appeal for information over his condition and whereabouts.



In a video circulated on social media network Facebook, a child taking shelter in Jaramana Camp shows how she was subjected to an abduction attempt by an anonymous gang. The video was



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removed sometime later. Instead, the girl published another video in which she gave instructions about ways to protect children from abductions.

According to AGPS data, over 300 Palestinian refugees have gone missing in war-torn Syria, mostly from Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

In another development, five Palestinian students enrolled at UNRWA-run schools, among them four students who were displaced from Syria to Lebanon, have been nominated among the top 10 contestants for the Lebanon team in the 2019 Arab Reading Challenge staged in Dubai in its fourth edition.



The participants expressed their deep disappointment over what they dubbed an “inhuman treatment” they faced during the celebration and the arbitrary travel ban slapped against them to prevent them from attending the wrap-up ceremony in Dubai on account that they are non-Lebanese nationals.

The students and their families also slammed the Lebanese committee for their “racist reaction” as they asked them to leave



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the hall after they handed them over certificates of appreciation and medals before the start of the main celebration. The committee further updated them on the travel ban which they said was issued as the students were Palestinian refugees rather than Lebanese citizens. The committee added that a sum of \$100 donated by UNICEF will be given to the Palestinian students while the Lebanese contestants will receive \$1,000.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said in its 2019 Syrian Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal that the unemployment rate among Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon has hit 52%. Those families can barely manage to secure their livelihood for two family members.

According to UNRWA estimates, most of PRS in Lebanon are below the age of 25. 20% to 25% of PRS are between 15 and 24 years-old. Youths suffer the highest rates of unemployment with over 36% for PRS in Lebanon.

In the same report, UNRWA said over 80 per cent of PRS cite UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income; about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty, while 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure.

Following a comprehensive verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon, conducted in July and August 2018, UNRWA verified the physical presence of 29,145 PRS (8,741 families) in the country, who are eligible for the Agency's emergency assistance. This indicates a gradual reduction of PRS in Lebanon, due to either onward movement or returns to Syria, while the pace of



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spontaneous and unassisted returns continues to vary. In 2019, it is expected that the country will host approximately 28,800 PRS (8,700 PRS families).

UNRWA has identified Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region. PRS rely heavily on UNRWA support to cover their basic needs and this dependency is expected to remain high in 2019.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Ahmad Husain Khaled, born in 1960, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian state jails for the seventh consecutive year.

Khaled was kidnapped at the government-controlled Husainiya checkpoint on March 5, 2013. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state penal complexes across the tension-stricken country, where hundreds of other refugees have also died under torture.

