



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



"Palestinians from Syria in Turkey Sound Distress Signals"

- **Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Urge UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid**
- **UNRWA Discusses Situation of Palestinians of Syria in Gaza**
- **Aid Materials Collected for Inhabitants of Houses Destroyed by Fire in AlNeirab Camp**

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Latest Developments

Palestinian activists in Turkey have launched calls for urgently assisting Palestinian refugees taking shelter in the country, where they continue to face a deteriorating humanitarian situation in light of the economic hardship wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

Hundreds of PRS have been unable to provide for their children and families in Turkey. A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

Activists leveled heavy criticism at the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Embassy in Turkey over their apathy regarding the refugees' ongoing cries for help.



Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.



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Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.

Along similar, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon have called on the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to transfer their much-needed cash grants.

A couple of days earlier, UNRWA said it delayed delivery of cash aid because it has been seeking higher currency exchange rates in an attempt to increase the purchasing value of the allocated grants.



The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.



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The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.

In another development, the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) in Gaza said UNRWA has held two meetings with representatives of PRS in Gaza following a vigil held on April 20 outside of the Agency's headquarters.

UNRWA pledged to respond to the refugees' appeals for cash grants over the next couple of weeks.

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

The refugees said their situation has taken a tragic turn for the worse due to UNRWA's suspension of its cash assistance. They have also been deprived of relief aids provided by other charities due to the registration of their names by the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah on the employees' list.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 12-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.



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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.

Last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern over the alarming situation in the besieged Gaza Strip in light of the propagation of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

"There are dramatic humanitarian needs for these people even without this pandemic", he said. "It is very difficult for these people to be living in self-isolation. There, households often don't have water, no soap, and healthcare facilities are extremely rudimentary. So we need to boost the response capacity in those areas".

The concerns coincided with calls launched by human rights groups in the Gaza Strip urging the Israeli occupation authorities to allow the entry of medical supplies needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic into the besieged territory.

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



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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.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Red Crescent organization in partnership with the Syria Red Crescent have garnered aid items to equip five houses that sustained material damage in AlNeirab Palestinian refugee camp in Syria.

A couple of weeks ago, a fire broke out in AlNeirab camp for Palestine refugees in Aleppo, resulting in heavy material damage. Five civilian homes sustained serious damage. No injuries were reported. The fire was reportedly caused by a short circuit overheat.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security



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risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

