



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



"81 Palestinians from Syria Pronounced Dead on Migration Route until April 2019"

- UNRWA rejects US bid to remove its mandate
- Civilians' Life Threatened by Motorbike Riders in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Iftar Meals Distributed in Daraa Refugee Camp
- Meals Handed Over to Palestinian Children from Syria in Sidon

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Latest Developments

More than 80 Palestinian fatalities have been recorded on migratory routes, fleeing war-torn Syria, according to AGPS statistics until April 2019.

15 refugees died in Egypt, 12 in Lebanon, 17 in Libya, eight in Greece, 12 in Turkey, six in Malta, three in Palestine and three in Italy. The list also includes two Palestinian refugees in Germany, one refugee in Sweden, another in Cyprus, and one more in Macedonia.



In another development, the head of UNRWA, the United Nations agency that has supported Palestinian refugees for seven decades, has rebuffed a US proposal to have host countries take over the services it provides across the Middle East.

The suggestion, from US Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday that UNRWA should be effectively dismantled was the latest US attack on an agency that began operations in 1950.



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"We need to engage with host governments to start a conversation about planning the transition of UNRWA services to host governments, or to other international or local non-governmental organizations, as appropriate," Greenblatt said after the Security Council was briefed by UNRWA chief Pierre Krahenbuhl.

Asked at a Gaza news conference on Thursday about Greenblatt's remarks, Krahenbuhl said UNRWA's mandate was a matter for the entire UN General Assembly to consider, not by "one or two individual member states".



"Therefore, Palestinian refugees should remember that the mandate is protected by the General Assembly, and of course, we will engage with member states to ensure what we hope is a safe renewal of that mandate," Krahenbuhl said.

Since Trump assumed office in 2017, Palestinians have grown concerned that he intends to bring about UNRWA's demise.

Formerly UNRWA's largest donor, the US cut off its roughly \$300m annual donation in 2018, deeming its fiscal practices "irredeemably flawed", stoking tensions between the Palestinians and US President Donald Trump's administration.



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US ally Israel claims that the work of UNRWA only perpetuates the plight of Palestinians.

"Year after year, Palestinians in refugee camps were not given the opportunity to build any future; they were misled and used as political pawns and commodities instead of treated as human beings," Greenblatt told the Security Council.

Krahenbuhl however, rebuffed Greenblatt's criticism at a conference in Gaza saying UNRWA cannot be blamed for stalled peace efforts.

"I unreservedly reject the accompanying narrative that suggests that somehow UNRWA is to blame for the continuation of the refugee-hood of Palestine refugees, of their growing numbers and their growing needs," Krahenbuhl said in response to a question about Greenblatt's comments.

"The fact that UNRWA still exists today is an illustration of the failure of the parties and the international community to resolve the issue politically - and one cannot deflect the attention onto a humanitarian organization."

Meanwhile, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to rail against the uncontrolled use of motorcycles by minors under the minimum legal age, a phenomenon they said poses serious threats to the lives of their children.



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The residents said several horrific accidents took place due to inappropriate speed and infringement of road safety rules across residential alleyways.

They called on the concerned authorities and popular committees to take urgent steps in response to such a life-threatening phenomenon.

In another development, a medical association in Beirut announced the launch of campaign to give prosthetic limbs to persons suffering from high-limb amputation (phase 3).

Palestinian and Syrian migrants from Syria in Lebanon will benefit from the move, slated to kick-start on May 23, 2019 and be wrapped up on May 30, 2019.

Concerned amputees are required to fill in forms containing their names, ages, place of residence, phone number, and type of amputation and to send them via WhatsApp on the following number: 70913774

In the meantime, AlBer Association in Daraa handed over fast-breaking (iftar) meals to displaced families in Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

60 rice meals and 35 bread bundles were distributed to widowed women and breadwinners, particularly those with disabilities.

Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees has been grappling with abject conditions as a result of the fallouts wrought by the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June



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2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area.

A mass exodus from Daraa Camp occurred as a result of the deadly shelling rocking the area. Government onslaughts on the camp using missiles and explosive barrels led to the destruction of 80% of civilian buildings and facilities.

Along the same line, an iftar (fast-breaking) banquet was held on Wednesday for Palestinian children from Syria in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

62 children, mostly orphans, joined the charity meal, which was donated by an anonymous benefactor.

