



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 of Syria Enduring Multiple Hardships"

- Palestinian Refugee Arrested in Istanbul
- Cancer-Stricken Palestinian Refugee in Lebanon Appeals for Life-Saving Treatment
- Palestinians of Syria Celebrate Gaza Ceasefire
- Germany: Palestinian Asylum Seekers from Syria Have "Unestablished Origin"

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Latest Developments

Ten years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond;

Once a vibrant community of over 550,000 people, Palestinians had come to Syria in two main waves in 1948 and 1967 to settle in 12 camps across the country. Yarmouk, the most famous of the Palestine refugee camps, became known as “the capital of Palestine refugees.”

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in the country – 91 per cent of whom live in absolute poverty - and who have been among those worst affected by the conflict.

Since the start of the conflict, many UNRWA installations inside Syria, such as schools and health centers, have become inaccessible or sustained severe damage. Forty per cent of UNRWA classrooms have been lost and almost 25 per cent of the Agency’s health centres are currently unusable due to the conflict. UNRWA in Syria has also lost 19 staff members during the 10-year conflict.



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PRS continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

In another development, Palestinian refugee boy Mohamed Kheir Salah was arrested by Turkish police in Esenyurt, in Istanbul, on May 19 for not holding the temporary protection card “kimlik”.

Mohamed was sent to a deportation center in Pendik city. Activists said he is his family’s sole breadwinners and called for his immediate release.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee from Syria Abdul Rahim Kmeishan, born in 1967 and displaced to Shatila camp, in Beirut, continues to launch distress signals over his deteriorating health condition.

Abdul Rahim, born in 1967, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He was displaced from Syria’s AlSabina Camp to Shatila Camp.

Abdul Rahim has appealed to the international humanitarian institutions, the Red Crescent, the Red Cross, and the Palestine Liberation Organization to help him with hospitalization charges.



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He is in need of an urgent surgery to remove the tumor. UNRWA paid a small portion of the surgery fees.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, said UNRWA in a fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA’s factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

In another development, Palestinian refugees and Syrian nationals turned up to the streets of Deraa city, south of Syria, on Sunday, May 23, to celebrate the ceasefire deal between Israel and the Palestinian resistance.

The refugees chanted slogans in solidarity with Gaza and in protest at Israel’s atrocious crimes against the Palestinians.

Marches and solidarity vigils took place in the refugee camps of AlNeirab, AlAyedeen, Khan Eshieh, Jaramana, and Khan Dannun, among other displacement camps set up across Syria.



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Several pro-Palestinian rallies have taken place in many countries around the world in support of the Palestinian people in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression on the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Protesters showed support for Palestinians and accused the Israeli government of using disproportionate force and indiscriminately bombing densely populated civilian areas in Gaza.

A ceasefire on Friday, mediated by Egypt, ended 11 days of hostilities, during which the Israeli military pounded Gaza with air strikes.

Gaza medical officials said 248 people were killed in the Palestinian enclave, and aid officials have expressed concern about the humanitarian situation there.

In the meantime, Germany's migration and refugee authorities have released data showing that they were unable to determine the origins of more than 470 asylum seekers last year.

According to asylum statistics, 4,535 people were recorded as having an "unestablished" origin for the purposes of their asylum applications, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) said. However, for the majority of these people, "unestablished" does not necessarily mean that their country of origin was not known, a spokesperson explained. Most were Kurds or Arabs – predominantly Palestinians – who had resided in a country but had not been nationals of that country.



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In these cases, the security situation in the respective country of residence – for example Syria – is the decisive factor for the asylum decision, the spokesperson added. For example, Palestinians living as refugees in Syria can exercise almost all civil rights there. As a rule, however, they do not receive Syrian citizenship.

People seeking asylum are also registered as having "unestablished" nationality if the information they provide about their country of origin is refuted or judged to be implausible by BAMF, but no other nationality can be established.

The number of asylum seekers in Germany listed as having unestablished nationality has remained at around 4,000 per year for several years: this reflects a rise as a proportion of the number of people applying for protection, which has been decreasing since 2017.

In April, "unestablished" was the fourth-most common category of nationality among applicants for protection, after Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In total, 102,581 foreigners applied for asylum in Germany for the first time in 2020. Among them were 26,520 applications for protection involving children under the age of 1 born in Germany.

Ulla Jelpke, from the left party 'Die Linke' criticized the government for continuing deportations in spite of the pandemic, which she said had caused enormous economic upheaval and exacerbated social hardship in many countries. Forced



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deportations under these circumstances demonstrated a lack of regard for humanity and human rights, she said.