



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



"Palestinian Refugees Deeply Concerned due to Increasing Abduction Reports South of Damascus"

- Dead Body Found after Migrant Boat Sinks off Greek Coast
- UNRWA to Deliver Aid in AlAyedeen Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Hygiene Kit Distributed in Handarat Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in southern Damascus towns have sounded distress signals over the security turmoil and increasing abductions in the area.

In mid-October 10 young men were kidnapped from the area.

Eye-witnesses said the abductions have been carried out by a gang wearing military uniforms and boarding a black car with no registration plate.

Recently, the son of Rateb Tayarah, the owner of the local bakery in Yalda town, was released for a ransom, after he had been held captive for ten days.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Yalda, Beit Saham, Babila, and Sidi Miqdad towns, have been targeted in manhunt launched pro-government militias.

In another development, at least one man has drowned after a migrant dinghy sank off the Greek island of Rhodes. Coast guard authorities said the boat had set off from the Turkish coast.

One person has died after a speedboat partially sank off the island of Rhodes. The Greek coast guard said on Monday that it was still searching for persons who may be in danger.

The boat, which had set off from Turkey, had begun to sink close to the Kato Petres beach northwest of Rhodes, the coastguard said.



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A local broadcaster showed the half-submerged vessel in the waves, according to the news agency dpa.

Thirteen people who had been on the speedboat were located by search and rescue authorities and were in good health. The body of a man was also retrieved, the coast guard statement said.

A dead man's body was found near the boat, the Greek news agency amna reported.

It was not immediately clear if any people were still missing. According to the survivors, a total of 14 people had been on board.

At least 9,342 people arrived on the Greek Aegean islands between the start of the year and November 15, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR.

This reflects a substantial decline from the 59,726 arrivals in 2019, partly due to the coronavirus pandemic. Turkish and Greek policies restricting movement as well as increased border patrols have also made crossings harder.

In another development, trucks laden with food items from the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) have entered AlAyedeen camp in Hama.

The in-kind aid items will be distributed to the most vulnerable families in the next few days.

Hama camp lies within the town of Hama, 210 km north of Damascus. The camp was established in 1950 on an area of 0.06



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square kilometres overlooking the Orontes river. Most of the refugees had fled from the villages surrounding Haifa and Acre in northern Palestine.

UN data indicates that before the conflict in Syria, there were 8,000 Palestine refugees living in Hama camp. It is estimated that 1,000 of the original population have left the country. Hama camp has not been affected by the conflict and attracted displaced Palestine refugees from elsewhere in Syria, boosting the population.

The camp is currently home to between 300 and 400 displaced Palestine refugee families, and the camp population is estimated to be around 9,000 Palestine refugees. Most employed refugees are wage labourers or shopkeepers, but many rely on UNRWA assistance to survive.

In 2018, UNRWA rehabilitated one of its two schools, both built in the 1950s, due to aging.

Environmental health in the camp is a serious problem and the mechanization of solid waste disposal is one of the most pressing needs. The sewerage system is antiquated and does not meet the requirements of a growing camp population.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike. Increasing poverty and hardship as a direct consequence of the ongoing crisis in Syria has



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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led to an increase of negative coping mechanisms like early marriage, child labour and drug consumption.

Along similar lines, the Syrian Association, in cooperation with CSOs from AlNeirab Camp, distributed hygiene packs to widows in Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

Ein El Tal camp was once home to around 7,000 residents. Around three hundred families moved to newly constructed houses in Ein



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El-Tal from Neirab camp under a 2003 project to reduce overcrowding in Neirab.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.