



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

25-03-2020

No. 2709

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"Due to Surge in Coronavirus Cases, AGPS Calls for Immediate Release of Palestinian Prisoners from Syrian Jails"**

- **Palestinian Families Facing Abject Humanitarian Condition in Gilin Town**
- **Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan Call for Urgent Action by UNRWA**
- **Food Baskets Distributed to Displaced Palestinian Families in Handarat**
- **Following Movement Clampdown, Residents of AlSabina Refugee Camp Appeal for Much-Needed Items**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

## Latest Developments

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS is deeply concerned over an unabated outbreak of coronavirus in Syrian prisons, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

Though the Syrian government reported only one case of coronavirus infection throughout the war-ravaged country, there are growing fears that a large outbreak in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria could be particularly catastrophic.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.



AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who tested positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.

The Syrian authorities and all concerned parties should also take precautionary measures and enhance captivity conditions to rein in a tragic propagation of the virus in jail.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

The unabated shelling and deadly shootouts rocking the Syrian territories for the ninth-year running have claimed the lives of thousands of Palestinian refugees and resulted in the abduction, torture, displacement, and enforced disappearance of thousands more.

AGPS has documented the death of 4,039 Palestinian refugees in Syria, including women and children, since 2011, as a result of war-related incidents.

1,790 Palestinian refugees have fallen prey to enforced disappearance across the embattled Syrian territories. Hundreds of families continue to appeal for information over the condition and whereabouts of their missing or secretly detained relatives in Syria.

Over recent weeks, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

A few days earlier, health officials in war-battered Syria have announced the first case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, as authorities in the country halted all public transportation in a bid to curb the spread of the virus.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Health Minister Nizar Yazji told a news conference in the capital Damascus on Sunday that “necessary measures” had been taken to ensure that the patient, a 20-year-old woman who had come from abroad, was quarantined for 14 days.

Earlier, the government shut down schools, parks, restaurants and various public institutions, and called off army conscription.

Syria's healthcare system, among other infrastructure, has been ravaged by nine years of war.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees who have returned to Gilin town, in Daraa’s western outskirts, after they fled the area due to the rampant shelling and deadly shootouts, continue to sound distress signals over the unbearable situation they have been enduring in the area.

Gilin’s infrastructure and public amenities have sustained massive destruction in the warfare. Civilians wishing to have access to healthcare facilities often head for AlMuzeireeb town as no clinics are operative in Gilin.



Over recent days, a state of panic has overwhelmed the Palestinian refugee community in Gilin town after the Syrian government forces



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

hit the area with missiles, resulting in five deaths and several injuries, including among children.

Civilians said shelling and bloody shootouts between the government forces and former opposition affiliates have forced dozens out of their homes.

Located some 25 kilometers away northwest of Daraa's city center, Gilin Camp was home to 5,000 families displaced from the occupied Palestinian territories.

In the meantime, displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan have urged the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to provide them with much-needed cash and medical assistance in order to be able to combat the deadly pandemic COVID-19.

The refugees called on UNRWA to secure their access to hygiene kit, including disinfectants, gloves, face masks, and medicines.

They further appealed to the Agency to shell out financial aid as their socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the curfew and movement restrictions imposed in the kingdom.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

Along similar lines, UNRWA handed over food baskets to residents of Palestinian refugee camp of Handarat, in Aleppo.

Activists have warned against undetected coronavirus cases among the refugees, who have lined up in long queues to receive much-needed aid.

Palestinian refugees in Handarat have been grappling with dire conditions 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 80% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.



According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.

Along similar lines, residents of AlSabina refugee camp have appealed to the Syrian authorities to allocate mobile stores for holders of smart cards in the area in order to enable civilians to fetch much-needed food items after severe movement restrictions have been slapped in the war-ravaged country over fears of coronavirus outbreak.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Civilians said they have been forced to walk for several kilometers to purchase vital items after they Syrian government suspended public transportation from and to cities and towns.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities. Frequent water and power outages have made the situation far worse.