



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 Girl with Special Needs Garners Outstanding School Results"

- Palestinian Students Honored in Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp
- ALSabina Camp Rail Against Trash Piles
- UNRWA ATM Cards Renewed for Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon

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Latest Developments

Sixteen-year-old Ghazal al-Toubeh, a Palestine refugee living in Homs, Syria, has been dubbed by UNRWA “a high achiever” and someone who has been striving to surmount all of the hurdles set on her road.

“I cannot describe my feelings when our exam results were announced. There was a lot of excitement in the room, I was so happy. I cried with joy!” said Ghazal.

Ghazal is among thousands of students who recently passed the 9th grade national exam and scored high marks that will qualify her to go for general education.



“I don’t feel that my disability hinders pursuing my education,” she said. “My mother created a positive learning environment in our home and is always supportive.”

In addition to a supportive home environment, Ghazal has benefitted from services offered by the UNRWA relief and social services program, such as events attended in the local UNRWA community centre, which she regularly attended before joining



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school. Her determination to continue her studies and attain an advanced degree motivates everyone around her. Her teachers describe Ghazal as a lively student, with the seemingly boundless energy of girls her age.

In spite of her positive outlook on life, Ghazal is not completely immune to people's negative opinions: "I've had my share of weird comments and awkward questions." Nonetheless, her eagerness to learn and dedication to her studies propelled her to success in school. Ghazal hopes to be an Arabic teacher after graduating from university.

"I am very proud to have overcome all the challenges I have faced," Ghazal said with pride.

UNRWA provides inclusive education to 532,000 Palestine refugee students across the Middle East, reflecting the diverse needs of persons with disabilities in each of its 708 schools. The Agency's education program ensures a rights-based approach to education provision that serves the most vulnerable student groups, actively promoting inclusive school communities. In addition, Agency staff work hard to empower students, with a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. UNRWA aims to protect students from marginalization and exclusion.

Along the same line, the Institute of Language Studies celebrated the success stories of a number of Palestinian students who achieved the highest scores in literary and scientific branches as part of basic education in Khan Eshieh refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq.



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Parents, activists, and representatives of political factions attended the celebration, held in AlFayhaa Hall, in Khan Eshieh refugee camp.



Khan Eshieh Camp, the third largest Palestinian refugee camp recognized by the Syrian government, was founded in 1948, near Khan Eshieh village. It is located some 27 kilometers away from southwestern Damascus and covers an overall area of 690 square meters.

Meanwhile, residents of AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to speak up against the trash mounds piled up across residential alleyways and on the access road to the local market, resulting in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

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.



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In another development, UNRWA is slated to renew ATM cards for displaced Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon, following a decision issued by the bank to that end. The new cards will preserve the same data and secret codes as the previous ones.

UNRWA said the cards will only be handed over to the concerned refugees. Families should bring their identity documents, including their passports and their exit/entry cards from Syria into Lebanon. Refugees without entry/exit cards are required to prove that they lived in Syrian prior to March 2011.

Text messages specifying the time and place of the renewal will be sent to the concerned refugees.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria seeking shelter in Lebanon have been subjected to dire socio-economic conditions and a precarious legal status as the Lebanese authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for legal visas and access to the local labor market.