



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

25-11-2021

No. 3419

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"UNRWA Staff Union Escalate Protest Moves over Infringed Rights"

- Palestinian Refugees Distressed as Syrian Gov't Warns of Exacerbated Power Crisis
- Property-Theft Ongoing in Yarmouk Camp
- Family Appeals for Information over Condition of Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria Prison

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

The General Union of UNRWA Staff has announced a decision to launch an open-ended hunger strike in protest of the Agency's violations of workers' rights.

The Union said in a statement that a general strike will be held as of December 2 to urge the Agency to cancel exceptional and unpaid leaves given under the pretext of funding deficit and to retroactively resume annual bonuses suspended since March.

They further urge UNRWA to create labor opportunities, recruit more Palestinian refugees, end temporary-work and day labor policy, pay November and December salaries, and implement the decisions of the Beirut Conference.

In another development, the Syrian Power Ministry said electricity blackouts will be exacerbated with the advent of winter due to gas shortage.

Deputy Director of the General Organization for Electricity Transmission and Distribution, Osama Shaaroun, said this winter will bring harsh conditions.

In its "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", UNRWA said that protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria.



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

UNRWA said in its fact-sheet that in Syria, the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Along similar lines, reports of burglary continue to emerge in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees had been taking shelter.

Members of pro-government groups have reportedly stolen furniture from abandoned buildings in and around Yarmouk neighborhoods.



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

Palestinian families displaced from the area continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.



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

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.

In the meantime, 18-year-old refugee Amar Mustafa Aziz has also been locked up in Syrian regime lock-ups since March 2013. His family continues to appeal for information over his condition and whereabouts.

Amar, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, was kidnapped on March 31, 2013 at a checkpoint in Damascus and dragged to an unidentified destination.

AGPS has kept record of the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinians in Syrian government jails, among whom 110 women and girls.