



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

25-12-2020

No. 2985

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Refugees in Husainiya Camp Denounce Movement Crackdown by Syrian Regime"

- Reconstruction Projects to Be Launched in Deraa Camp
- Palestinian Committees in Lebanon Slam UNRWA Aid Cut
- Hygiene Packs Distributed in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Brothers Ahmad and Walid Mahmoud Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons

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## Latest Developments

The Syrian security forces have reportedly cracked down on civilians passing through a recently-pitched military checkpoint near the main entrance to AlHusainiya Camp.

Vehicles and passengers have been subjected to intensive search and questioning at the checkpoint.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

In another development, Palestinian affiliates of AlBaath Party and representatives of UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) discussed projects slated to be launched by UNRWA in Deraa Camp to enhance vital services for Palestinian refugees.

The list of projects includes the reconstruction of Tabaria School and mildly-damaged houses, rubble clearance, and rehabilitation of sewerage and street lighting.

The condition of houses will be assessed as of January 17 so as to determine habitable and uninhabitable houses.

All the way through Syria's nine-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling



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with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

Civilians continue to sound distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare. Dozens of sick and elderly civilians face mountainous journeys trying to reach AlKashef area for treatment.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands.



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As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

The camp was initially set up on an area of 0.04 square kilometers, and it now covers an area of 1.3 square kilometers. In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict. Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Along similar lines, the Coalition of Popular Committees of Palestinians from Syria denounced UNRWA cut of its services and winter grants for Palestinians from Syria.

In a statement, the coalition said UNRWA has reduced its winter grant to 25 USD per every refugee, a sum that lags far behind the refugees' basic needs.

The committees urged UNRWA to issue a statement detailing the amount of winter aid to be handed over to Palestinian refugees and the reasons for the delay of cash aid delivery.



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They further called on the Agency to transfer aid in US dollars and on time.

UN data indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria (PRS), continue to face dire conditions and high vulnerability in Lebanon.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

In the meantime, the Palestinian Red Crescent, in partnership with the Danish Red Cross, distributed on Friday hygiene packs and



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school furniture to residents of Yarmouk refugee camp, in Damascus.

Nearly 200 families taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp have been grappling with squalid humanitarian conditions.

Human rights activists have appealed to the Palestinian and international NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian families who remained in Yarmouk refugee camp.

The activists stressed the need to secure bread, drinking water, and vital food items to the residents, in light of the movement restrictions slapped across the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Activists have warned that civilian property has also been subjected to theft and homes to burglary in the government-held camp. Flocks of vehicles laden with belongings stolen from abandoned buildings in the camp are spotted on a quasi-daily basis.

Meanwhile, Palestinian brothers Ahmad and Walid Mousa Mahmoud have been held in Syrian government jails since February 2014.

Both brothers were kidnapped from their family home in Rukn AlDeen, in Damascus. Their families have received no information about their whereabouts and conditions of captivity.



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AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government lock-ups, among them women and children.

Dozens of others also died under torture in Syria's regime penitentiaries, including three brothers from Hamdan family, from Yarmouk Camp, and three sisters from Sa'd AlDin family, from AlRaml Camp. The latter were pronounced dead on March 30, 2015.