



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Suffering Food Insecurity, Instability in Northern Syria Displacement Camps"

- Blockade on Deraa Totally Lifted
- 36 Palestinian Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons
- Residents of AlHusainiya Camp Denounce Price Leap
- Trash Mounds Piled Up in Syria's Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation due to food insecurity and high poverty rates. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of COVID-19 add to the torment already experienced throughout the ten-year conflict.

High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.

Some 819 Palestinian families have sought shelter in Idlib, including 226 families in the city center, 152 in Atama, 60 in Akrebat village, and 60 more in Sarmada town. 50 families are taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

Palestinian refugees in northern Syria continue to rail against the apathy maintained by the UN Works and Relief Agency for



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Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) regarding their appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance.

Though UNRWA's mandate includes Palestinian refugees in Syria, UNRWA has rarely provided relief services to the displaced Palestinians in the northern corners of the country on claims that the area is hard to reach.

AGPS continues to urge UNRWA to hand over much-needed relief items, including medicines and foodstuff, to the displaced Palestinians in all of its fields of operations, including northern Syria, and to provide them with the physical and moral protection they quite urgently need at such a critical time.

UNRWA provides assistance to over 438,000 registered Palestinian refugees in Syria. Some 13,500 others remain in hard-to-reach or inaccessible zones in northern Syria.

In another development, the Central Committee in Deraa city, south of Syria, reached on Monday an agreement with the Syrian government to lift the noose tightened around the area and backtrack on any projected military escalation.

Reporting from the area, an AGPS correspondent said the Syrian security forces removes the Saraya checkpoint, set up between Deraa AlBalad and the city centre.

As part of the deal, a number of residents and former opposition forces will lay down their personal weapons in return for a security



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solution, by the Syrian regime, in favor a 130 wanted residents, including 25 Palestinian refugees.

Last week, the Syrian regime has attacked Deraa AlBalad, south of Syria, with anti-aircraft guns, forcing dozens of families out of their homes and shelters.

On June 25, the regime forces asked the residents and former opposition forces to lay down all light weapons and allow them to search their homes. However, the Daraa Central Committee, the main reconciliation center in the area, noted that they were only supposed to hand in heavy weapons as part of the Russian-brokered agreement signed in July 2018. The regime then started imposing a blockade on some 40,000 civilians living in the area.

All entrances and exits from the district were blocked, and the transportation of all medical and food assistance, as well as fuel, prohibited.

Daraa-based activists told Anadolu Agency (AA) that another reason for the regime to impose the blockade was because the region's people had opposed setting up ballot boxes for the regime's so-called elections.

Daraa was one of the main bastions of opposition that came under intense attacks by the regime.

In 2018, Assad regime forces, backed by allied Russian forces, started a massive ground and air offensive to retake Daraa from the opposition. The onslaught forced more than 320,000 people to



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flee and camp in open spaces or makeshift shelters near the border with Jordan or the Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, AGPS has kept record of the secret detention of 36 Palestinian refugees sheltered in Syria's AlSayeda Zeinab Camp from March 2011 until July 26, 2021.

According to AGPS statistics, five Palestinians who had sought refuge in the camp were fatally tortured in Syria's government prisons, where a total of at least 633 Palestinians also died under torture.

AGPS has documented the incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state-run penal complexes.

AGPS believes that the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian authorities on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the refugee families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.

Activists continue to accuse pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including



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electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons, release the bodies of those tortured to death, seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

In another development, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have been overburdened by the poor quality and exorbitant prices of ice packs.

An ice pack is sold at 1,000 Syrian pounds, in an area where poverty rates have reached unprecedented levels.

The power crisis has made the situation worse and resulted in food spoilage.

In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh refugee camp denounced the accumulation of trash piles on Khan Eshieh's access roads and outside of UNRWA school.

Palestinian refugees said the phenomenon poses serious health threats and puts their children's hygiene at risk.



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Residents of the nearby Khawaled neighborhood urged the concerned authorities and URNWA to seriously work on clearing garbage accumulated on the river edges.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the eight-year long warfare.

As in other refugee camps across Syria, the cost of living index in Khan Eshieh is several times higher than the pre-war period. Prices have seen a 1000% leap, overburdening even further the cash-stripped families. Unemployment rates have also seen an unprecedented increase, resulting in growing poverty rates.