



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



"Situation of Palestinian Refugees Exacerbated by Coronavirus Outbreak in Lebanon"

- Family of Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee Blackmailed by Syrian Regime
- UNRWA Delegation Shows Up in Yarmouk Camp
- Water Network Rehabilitated in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- 6 Palestinian Migrants Arrested near Turkish-Bulgarian Borders

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Latest Developments

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has been exacerbated by the movement restrictions, closure of vital facilities, and curfew imposed by the Lebanese authorities to prevent a further propagation of COVID-19.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.



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In another development, the sister of Palestinian refugee student Salma Abdul Razak said the family has been blackmailed by Syrian authorities over their appeals for information about their relative's condition and whereabouts.

Salma's sister, Kholoud, who fled to France, said the family has paid large sums of money to government officers and brokers to identify Salma's condition, but to no avail.

Salma, who was enrolled at the Architectural Engineering University in Damascus, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government penitentiaries.

Born on March 30, 1990, Salma fled Yarmouk Camp after it was struck with Mig fighter jets. She was kidnapped as she attempted to re-enter the camp on December 30, 2012 via a checkpoint pitched near AlBashir Mosque, after reports emerged that her brother was injured with sniper fire.

She was transferred, along with Palestinian refugee Husam Maw'ed, to an unknown location and charged with assisting refugees and tending to the wounded.

Several appeals were sent by her family to the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian factions. However no data has been revealed on Salma's condition and whereabouts.

According to AGPS statistics, 110 Palestinian women and girls figure on a list of 1,797 refugees secretly held in Syrian government dungeons.



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Meanwhile, a UNRWA delegation paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, to inspect the condition of UNRWA premises pending their reconstruction.

Local activists told AGPS that UNRWA will embark on reconstruction works some time soon.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.

Along similar lines, the International Red Cross Committee in Syria said over 25,000 people from Handarat city, including residents of the city's Palestinian refugee camp, are now able to get potable water after the water pump has been rehabilitated and power generators installed.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat 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 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations 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.



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UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. As of the end of 2018, there were 90 Palestine refugee families that returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.

In the meantime, six Palestinian and 10 Syrian migrants were arrested by Turkish police near the Bulgarian borders.

Turkish media sources said the migrants were boarding a car and trying to illegally enter Bulgaria. The driver received a fine of 4,050 Turkish pounds while the migrants were subjected to bails worth 4,746 each for violating lockdown measures.