



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



"AGPS Pushes for Urgent Measures to Curtail Growing Poverty among Palestinians of Syria"

- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Bread Crisis in Syria
- Palestinian Refugee Families to Go Homeless in Lebanon
- Palestinian Refugee Naser Seksek Forcibly Disappeared in Syria since 2012
- Palestinian Artist AlHakam AlNu'eimi Pronounced Dead in France

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Latest Developments

AGPS has called on UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, and all other concerned bodies to immediately intervene in order to enhance the alarming humanitarian situation of the cash-stripped Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Gaza, among other destinations.

Serious action should be taken by all concerned parties regarding the “tragic situation” of PRS.

After nine years of conflict, Palestinian refugees in and from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and forced thousands to become internally displaced.



The vast majority of the 540,000 Palestine refugees registered in Syria (PRS) are unable to meet their basic needs. Many PRS lost their sources of income; displacement camps have seen



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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.

Economic hardship forced thousands of PRS to embark on life-threatening journeys to neighboring countries or to try to get to safety to a European destination. Hundreds have died at sea.

The UN and the international community should take urgent steps in order to enhance the socio-economic condition of PRS, safeguard children's right to moral and physical protection, and prevent child labor and forced military conscription.

UNRWA should help create job opportunities and better economic conditions for PRS, help reduce poverty and unemployment, work on rehabilitating destroyed camps, and increase aid grants pending the refugees' safe return to their homeland—Palestine.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in southern Syria continue to rail against the acute death in bread and the swift hike in the prices of vital food and non-food items

Over recent weeks, a set of measures were announced to control bread distribution in displacement camps and prevent long queues and over-crowding in an attempt to fight the coronavirus pandemic.



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Palestinian taking refuge in Daraa camp said they have been forced to lineup outside of the local oven for hours in order to get a loaf of bread. Dozens of families have been forced to walk for several kilometers to fetch bread for their starved children.

The residents also said merchants and shopkeepers have been taking profit from the absence of control staff to manipulate prices and supplies.



Local activists have called for serious action by the concerned authorities, particularly the Syrian Ministry of Supply and Domestic Commerce, in order to impeach market abusers and dispatch control staff to regulate prices and control supply and demand.

Palestinian families seeking shelter south of Syria continue to launch cries for help over the dire socio-economic conditions, high unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, steep rental fees, and chronic water crisis rocking the area. The propagation of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 will further overburden the cash-stripped families who cannot afford to buy hygiene kit and life-saving medicines.



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Meanwhile, a number of PRS families in Lebanon said they risk to go homeless after they failed to pay house rents for months.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, the families said their children will remain without roofs over their heads as most refugee breadwinners have gone unemployed, amid grave economic hurdles brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Naser Seksek has been secretly held in Syrian government jails since August 28, 2012.

He was kidnapped from his home by Syrian security officers who heavily beat him up before dragging him to an unknown location.



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AGPS documented the secret incarceration of 1,794 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state-run lock-ups, among them over 100 women and girls.

In another development, Palestinian artist AlHakam Abdul Aziz AlNueimi died at hospital in Strasburg following a struggle with a fatal disease.

AlHakam, a painter, a poet, a designer, and a journalist, was born and raised in Yarmouk refugee camp, in Damascus, in 1974. He earned a diploma in decorative engineering from Damascus Faculty of Fine Arts.

He had been jailed in Syrian prisons before he joined the Union of Palestinian Artists and the Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists.

He published nine poetic compilations and political studies and took part in several art exhibitions.

