



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

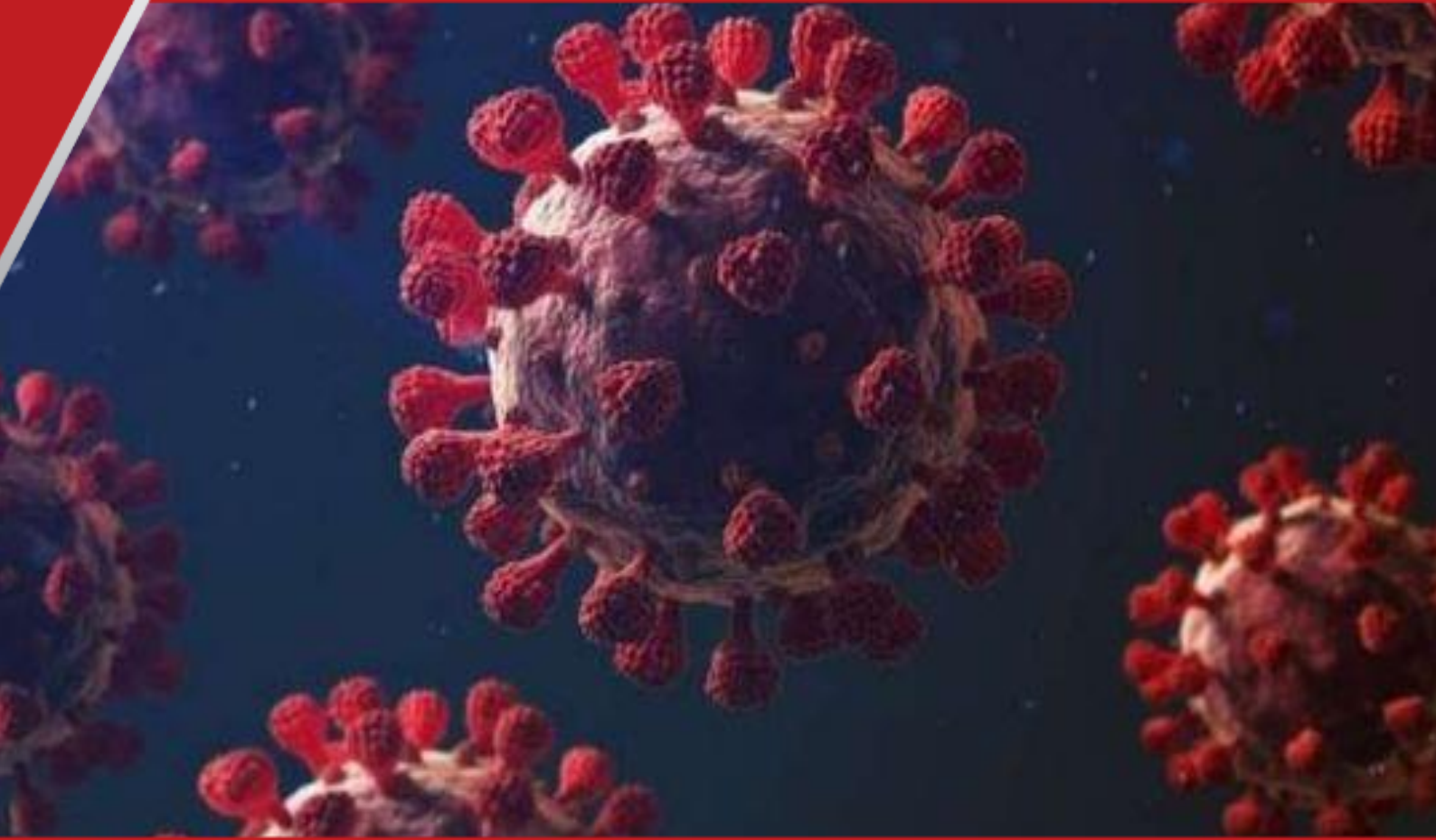
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Number of Coronavirus Cases Goes Up in Khan Eshieh Camp"

- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid to Palestinians of Syria
- Palestinian Refugee Child Wins 3rd Place in Syria Mental Math Competition
- Palestinian Refugees in Turkey Commemorate Sabra and Shatila Massacre

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Latest Developments

Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees in Rif Dimashq have sounded the alarm over the increasing coronavirus cases reported in the area.

Activists called on civilians to wear face masks and abide by safety protocols, most notably social distancing and regular hand-washing, in order to help curtail the pandemic.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

A few months earlier, AGPS also warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

In another development, UNRWA announced its decision to disburse one-time cash assistance to Palestinians from Syria (PRS) in Gaza.



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According to the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinians from Syria in Gaza, following pressure and protest moves, the Agency agreed to provide 91 USD to every PRS once in every three-months.

140 PRS families will benefit from the cash assistance.

The Committee said it will keep up protest moves until house rent allowances are shelled out by the Agency for the displaced PRS families.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 15-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world’s largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.



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NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee child Wisam Bilal Abdul Mutaleb, raised in Syria's Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, won the second place in an electronic mental math and Rubik's cube tournament in Syria, with a difference of 4 seconds from the first place.

Less than two weeks earlier, a team of 11 children from AlRamla School in AlAyedeen Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Syria's Hums province, won the first and second places in an international mental math competition.

Participants from 18 countries took part in the contest.

Schoolgirls Hala Shalabi and Rahma Mohamed Diab won respectively the second and third places.

Earlier this month, Palestinian child from Syria Wafaa Emad Aboura, aged 8, also earned the third place in the Mental Arithmetic Tournament held in Dubai.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

The conflict in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees attended a popular festival held by the Turkish Association to Support Palestine (FIDAR) and MyReturn Campaign to commemorate the anniversary of the horrific Sabra and Shatila massacre which took place in Beirut 39 years ago.

The event was staged in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep.

On 16th September 1982, Israeli-allied militiamen from the right-wing Lebanese Christian Kataeb Party and the South Lebanon Army stormed the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps in west Beirut and killed up to 3,500 people.

The memory of the massacre, which lasted for three days, remains a source of great pain for the Palestinian and Lebanese civilians who survived it.



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It took place during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon which aimed to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a military force. This invasion was one chapter in Lebanon's complex 1975-1990 Civil War, which tore the country apart on sectarian and ideological lines.

Eyewitnesses living in the two Palestinian refugee camps said that the massacre began just before sunset on the 16th September, when the Israeli army, which had recently occupied Beirut, imposed a tight siege on the camps to ease the entry of its Lebanese militia allies.

Estimates of the number of victims vary between 750 and 3,500. Most of the victims were Palestinian refugees, while others impoverished Lebanese living in the camps. The Lebanese Civil War started with fighting between the PLO and militiamen from the Kataeb Party, which is also known as the Phalange.

“They walked us single file against a bullet-riddled brick wall. It seemed like about 40 soldiers facing us. Their rifles were pointed. They looked like a firing squad. Some of my fellow hospital staff started crying. I wondered, was anyone going to know that I died in this refugee camp? But I thought, it's OK I'm here, it's because I did the right thing. I was humming ‘Here Comes the Sun’, American survivor Ellen Siegel, a nurse who nearly died in the Sabra and Shatila massacre, told Mondoweiss.

Today approximately 12,000 people live in the Sabra and Shatila camps. There are ten other Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon



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and the total number of Palestinians in the country is estimated at between 174,000 and 450,000.

They are the descendants of Palestinians who fled their homeland in 1948, when Zionist militias expelled the vast majority of the Palestinian population prior to the creation of Israel.

Palestinians in Lebanon are still deprived of many political and civil rights. They are not permitted to own property and there are heavy restrictions on their employment.