



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 in Lebanon's AlBekaa Region Appeal for Urgent Action"

- Palestinian Refugees in/from Syria Denounce Delayed Passport Issuance
- Property-Theft Reported in Khan Dannun Camp
- Residents of AlSabina Camp Launch Calls for Services Rehabilitation

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## Latest Developments

Dozens of displaced Palestinian families from Syria in the Lebanese AlBekaa region continue to appeal to UNRWA to hand them much-needed humanitarian aid with the advent of a freezing winter season.

Palestinian families taking refuge in AlBekaa have been struggling for survival in the face of the sub-zero temperatures rocking the mountainous region and the rain downpours swamping their poorly-equipped tents.

Families have been left with no option other than burning plastic bottles to keep their children warm, despite the damage wrought on their vulnerable bodies.

Price leap and steep rental fees, along with the absence of relief aid, have made life unbearable for the Palestinian refugees in AlBekaa.

The situation has been exacerbated by UNRWA's latest decision to cut aid for Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

The refugees continue to urge the Palestine Liberation Organization and human rights bodies to urge UNRWA to backtrack on the decision and transfer much-needed cash grants for PRS in Lebanon.



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Over 28,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought refuge in Lebanon, where they have been enduring exacerbated living conditions and subjected to a precarious legal status.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to denounce the complicated red tape faced by Palestinians from Syria (PRS) who have applied for Palestinian Authority-stamped passports.

Scores of PRS have submitted appeals for PA passports since last July at the Palestinian embassy in Damascus.

According to an official embassy source, most passport demands submitted by August 15, 2021 have been handed over to the applicants.

Palestinian refugees who applied for passports in the first half of last August should reach out to the embassy to verify passport issuance.

Delays in passport issuance have been attributed to difficulties in transferring documents from Ramallah to Syria through Jordan. Only 30 passports can be transferred at once.

The embassy source added that over recent months demands for PA passports through the website have doubled. Several documents and photos were rejected by the embassy due their poor quality.

In another development, Power cables and the plunger feeding to main water tank have been stolen from Khan Dannun camp for



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Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power and water blackouts.

Sources inside the camp pointed the finger at pro-regime militias. Others attributed the phenomenon to the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by several families in the camp.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650





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Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In the meantime, spokespersons for AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, paid a visit to Rif Dimashq governor in order to sound the alarm over the poor the poor infrastructure, power and water crises, and absence of vital services in the area.

The governor pledged to make serious efforts in order to enhance civilians' access to basic services and rehabilitate infrastructure at the earliest possible time.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.



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During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.