



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

28-04-2021

No. 3205

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Armed Gang Grabs School in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees"

- Residents of Handarat Camp Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance
- Residents of Jaramana Camp Denounce Mistreatment by AlHaram Company
- UNRWA Pledges Transfer of Aid to Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon in USD
- Turkey Rescues 137 Migrants Pushed Back from Greece

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

Anonymous gunmen held sway on Tuesday, 10 pm, over AlNeirab School, located in AlNeirab refugee camp, and climbed over its walls in an attempt to grab its equipment.

Civilians who walked out of the nearby mosque at dawn reached out to the school headmaster. The latter rushed to the scene accompanied with the school staff. The gunmen fired gunshots in the air and cordoned off the school building. Shootouts occurred after police showed up in the area. No injuries were reported.

The headmaster said the gangsters stole two gas canisters, an air conditioner, a refrigerator, a model, a computer, and some educational aids.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria,



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

displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In another development, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Handarat Camp, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, have accused UNRWA and the other concerned relief institutions of dragging their feet over their appeals for urgent cash and in-kind assistance, saying they have been denied access to vital services and humanitarian aid.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in the area 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



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

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.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.

Along similar lines, residents of Jaramana Camp have urged UNRWA to pressurize AlHaram Company for international transfer to cease mistreatment of Palestinian refugees who show up at the company's office to withdraw their cash aid.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of refugees said they have been forced to line up for over six hours in overcrowded queues outside of the company.

Other refugees who live at a considerable distance from the company said they woke up at the crack of dawn to receive their cash grants and avoid overcrowded queues.

"We have been insulted and our dignity attacked as if we were second-class citizens", said a refugee.



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

The refugees called on UNRWA to reach out to AlHaram Company and pressurize it to take urgent measures in response to their complaints.

After more than 10 years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

This year's Holy Ramadan month has been tougher for Palestinian refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories, as the coronavirus outbreak means that many PRS have not been able to reunite with or provide for their families.

Meanwhile, UNRWA in Lebanon pledged to transfer cash grants to Palestinians of Syria at the earliest possible time in May and in USD or its equivalent exchange rate.

UNRWA apologized for the delay in cash aid transfer, which it attributed to financial procedures.

UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple



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

hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA’s factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country’s 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.



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

In the meantime, in three different operations, a total of 137 asylum seekers were rescued by Turkish coastal authorities off the coast of western Izmir province after they were pushed back by Greek Coast Guard.

After a tip that there was a group of asylum seekers in three rubber boats off Denizkoy in Dikili district, a Coast Guard Command boat was dispatched to the area.

Some 86 asylum seekers in rubber dinghies were brought ashore.

Another 23 asylum seekers in a rubber boat which was pushed back by Greek Coast Guard teams were rescued off Aslan Cape in Foca County.

Coast Guard command teams also disembarked 28 asylum seekers in a rubber boat off Cape Karaabdullah in Cesme district.

The asylum seekers, including women and children, were taken to the provincial migration authority after routine checks.

Turkey has repeatedly condemned Greece's illegal practice of pushing back asylum seekers, saying it violates humanitarian values and international law by endangering the lives of vulnerable migrants, including women and children.

Turkey has been a key transit point for asylum seekers aiming to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution.