



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Activists Warn Yarmouk Residents against Attempts to Turn Their Property into Bargaining Chips"

- Palestinians in AlBal Camp Deprived of Humanitarian Assistance
- New Anti-Coronavirus Measures Imposed at Damascus International Airport
- UNRWA Opens Up Registration for Accounting Major

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Latest Developments

Activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and properties following the widely-condemned reconstruction plan proposed by Damascus Governorate.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

Human rights activists have accused pro-regime businessman of standing behind the purchase of property from Yarmouk residents.

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new reconstruction plan for Yarmouk Camp, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Activists said the new plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass



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displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

It is believed that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.



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Along similar lines, displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in ramshackle and poorly-equipped tents set up in AlBal Camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo's northern outskirts, north of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over their alarming humanitarian condition.

The refugees said they have not received relief items and cash grants despite their ongoing appeals for urgent humanitarian assistance.

The families have sounded distress signals over the dire situation they have been facing owing to the absence of vital services, relief assistance, and potable water. The camp is located several kilometers away from the city center.

The displaced Palestinian families have appealed to UNRWA and the concerned humanitarian organizations to make urgent steps in order to alleviate their suffering.

Located north of Suran city, in the northern countryside of Aleppo, AlBal Camp was established in April 2018 to give shelter to families displaced from Eastern AlGhouta. It is home to nearly 600 makeshift tents funded by AFAD charity and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The rampant Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on the Palestinian refugees, hundreds of whom have been struggling for survival in the violence-stricken country.



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In another development, the Syrian Health Ministry introduced new measures for passengers during landings and takeoffs at the Damascus International Airport.

Flights will be resumed at the airport starting next month, the ministry said in a circular posted on its Facebook page.

The Ministry said passengers departing from or arriving at the airport should present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from an accredited laboratory. Tests should have a validity period not exceeding 96 hours upon arrival in the country.

The announcement is a change in policy, and now tourists, residents and citizens, as well as those transiting through the airport, must take a coronavirus test before arriving in Syria.

Meanwhile, UNRWA's Vocational Training Programme in Syria announced the launch of registration procedures for accounting major for the 2020/2021 academic year at the Latakia Centre.

Only Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA and aged below 22 by October 1, 2020 will be eligible for the two-year course.