



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



"Pro-Regime Militias Involved in Drug Trafficking in Palestinian Refugee Camp of AlNeirab"

- Power Crisis Exacerbated by Cable Theft in Khan Eshieh Camp
- Palestinian Refugees with Disabilities Graduate from UNRWA Centres
- Fuel Supplies Distributed to 300 Displaced Palestinian Families from Syria in AlBekaa

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Latest Developments

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Syria.

Reporting from Aleppo, an AGPS correspondent said that a couple of weeks ago the Syrian security forces arrested a group of young men, including conscripts, for promoting smuggled narcotic pills inside the Palestine Liberation Army. Another four people from Nobl area were arrested on the same charges.

A large sum of money, hundreds of narcotic pills and a kilogram of cocaine, were seized. Four other youths aged between 18 and 23 years were also arrested in the same manhunt.

Sometime earlier, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been accused of running a network for drug trafficking in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.



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Along similar lines, power cables have reportedly been stolen from abandoned houses and alleyways in Khan Eshieh Camp refugee camp, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power blackouts.

Supervisor of the local mosques said power cables of AlRidha Mosque have been stolen by thieves.

Sources inside the camp said the cables were most probably stolen by drug addicts. Others attributed the phenomenon to the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by several families in the camp.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the



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ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

In another development, 54 Palestinian refugees with disabilities have received their graduation certificates from a UNRWA office in Syria.

The graduates participated in short-term training sessions in sewing and mobile phone maintenance.

At the end of the ceremony, the graduates received sewing machines and mobile phone maintenance tools.

UNRWA said it assists more than 2,300 Palestine refugees with disabilities in Syria and more than 13,143 Palestine refugees in total across all five fields of operation.

Assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees, including persons with disabilities, is provided by donors like the European Union. The European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has funded assistance to those with disabilities, as well as female-headed households.

Meanwhile, the Civil Commission for Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon handed over fuel supplies to 300 displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in Lebanon's northern and central AlBekaa region.



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According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

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 and being issued a departure order.