



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



### "3,444 Palestinian Refugees Granted Citizenship in Sweden"

- Palestinian Breakaway Rebels Held in Syrian Prisons
- Palestinian Refugee Families in Syria Denied Access to Bread
- 2 Palestinian Factions Open Up Office at Yarmouk Camp
- Hygiene Packs, School Bags Distributed in Handarat Camp

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## Latest Developments

Official Swedish statistics have indicated that 3,444 Palestinian asylum-seekers categorized as “stateless” received citizenship documents in Sweden until November 2020.

“Stateless” migrants are often denied citizenship in Sweden.

According to the Swedish Migration Agency, 6,425 Palestinian refugees received citizenship documents in the Scandinavian country in 2018.

Since mid-July 2016, the Swedish authorities suspended permanent visa procedures for holders of temporary protection cards.

Over the past few years, thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among other migrants, who have applied for asylum in Sweden were granted two-year visas.

Eligibility criteria set by the Swedish authorities include a well-paid work contract valid for a minimum of two years and which enters into force before the expiration of the temporary visa. The employer should submit a recruitment declaration at the Swedish tax authority, taking into consideration the conditions defined by the national trade unions.

Those aged below 25 should be holders of secondary school diplomas from Sweden or other foreign institutions.



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In another development, a number of Palestinian refugees who broke away from the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) and joined opposition outfits south of Syria have been incarcerated in Syria's state-run prisons. Many of them got their security situation worked out, though.

At the same time, a number of PLA conscripts were pronounced dead after they broke away from the battalion. Several others were tortured to death in Syrian government lock-ups.

Scores of Palestinian youths have been forced to join the PLA. Those who refuse forced conscription are often subjected to manhunt and imprisonment. Thousands of young men have fled the country.

In mid-2020, a Palestinian family identified their missing relative—Basel Nabil Kherma, forcibly disappeared in Syrian government prisons since 2012—in a series of photos leaked by the so-called Caesar breakaway

The victim was arrested during a military conscription term with the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian regime. He was aged 19 at the time and accused of affiliations with opposition groups.

Horroric photos showing thousands of people who were tortured to death in Syrian government penitentiaries were leaked by a military police photographer, codenamed Caesar.



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AGPS has recorded the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, including 110 women and girls.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Gaza in Syria said they could not purchase bread from an Aleppo bakery as they failed to obtain a smart card from the Syrian authorities.

Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees said they have been barred from smart cards used by the Syrian government to ration bread and a wider range of subsidized goods, namely fuel, rice, tea, and sugar.

Several refugee families said they have not received sufficient quantities of bread and food items.

After ten 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 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty;



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91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

In the meantime, activists from Yarmouk Camp said Fatah Movement and the Democratic Front opened up their offices in Yarmouk Camp, a move which is likely to boost civilians' return to their houses.

Recently, Director of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said the return of displaced families to Yarmouk Camp has been taking place at a steady pace under the supervision of Damascus Governorate

He said the return of families is contingent upon reconstruction of vital facilities and rehabilitation of water, power and sewerage networks.

He said 480 families are currently sheltered in the camp. Some 80 families will return to the camp in the next few days.

Recently, dozens of Palestinian families presented their ownership documents at a government checkpoint near the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, so as to get permits to return to the area and retrieve their houses and property.





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In another development, the Palestine Youth Imprint, in cooperation with the Palestinian Red Crescent, distributed 287 medical packs to Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, so as to help families combat the coronavirus pandemic. Schoolbags were also handed over to children.

Some 110 Palestinian families are taking shelter in Handarat Camp, where they have been facing dire living conditions.

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 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.

UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

Ein El Tal camp was once home to around 7,000 residents. Around three hundred families moved to newly constructed houses in Ein El-Tal from Neirab camp under a 2003 project to reduce overcrowding in Neirab.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
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The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.