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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Humanitarian Situation Extremely Alarming in Khan Dannun Refugee Camp

- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Left without Bread for 7th Consecutive Day
- Qatar Contributes 2.5 Million to Palestine Refugees
- Turkey Makes Residence Exceptions in Neighborhoods Closed to Foreigners



Latest Developments

Residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said official complaints should be handed over to the concerned authorities over their deteriorating humanitarian condition in the camp.

The residents said UNRWA, GAPAR, and other concerned bodies have failed to take up their duties regarding civilians' calls for an urgent humanitarian response.

The purchasing power index among Palestinian refugees living in war-torn Syria has dramatically gone down since the outbreak of the conflict.

In Khan Dannun refugee camp, prices have skyrocketed while civilians can barely afford a few pounds to get their most basic needs.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Water supplies have been repeatedly cut off across residential neighborhoods in Khan Dannun, forcing civilians to buy drinking water from privately-owned tanks at steep prices. The residents have also denounced the ongoing electricity blackout.

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

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been denied access to bread for the 7th day running after the sole bakery in the camp has gone inoperative due to fuel dearth.

Civilians, who used to line up for hours outside of the camp's sole bakery to receive bread loafs, said fuel supplies allotted to the bakery have been sold on the black market.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Eshieh camp have spoken up against bread mismanagement and the poor quality of bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After more than twelve years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, in response to an urgent call for support by the United Nations Relief and Works agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) contributed US \$ 2.5 million as supplementary end-of-year funding to the Agency.

An agreement signed on 26 December between QFFD and UNRWA makes these additional resources available immediately to bridge an acute funding gap and allow the continuation of critical services to Palestine refugees across the region.

Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari, QFFD Director General, said: "This emergency contribution agreement comes at a critical time not just



to support UNRWA's funding shortfall but to strengthen its pivotal role in protecting the rights of Palestine refugees at risk. In addition to alleviating their urgent and critical needs, Palestine refugees remain at the top of the state of Qatar's agenda, especially given the refugees' ever-growing humanitarian, health, and educational needs. QFFD hopes to improve the lives of numerous underserved communities in Palestine and change their lives for the better.”

UNRWA has been suffering from chronic underfunding that threatens its ability to pay staff salaries and that adds to the distress and despair of Palestine refugees as they face some of the worst socio-economic conditions in years.

“Once again, Qatar sends a strong message of support to Palestine refugees” said Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner General. “In the aftermath of the World Cup, where solidarity with Palestinians was prominent, I am grateful for this timely end of the year contribution which I hope will be replicated by others in the region.”

In the meantime, the Turkish Migration Department announced that certain neighborhoods are off-limits to new residents.

Exceptions are only to be made where necessary to facilitate family reunification. This includes children below 18 and newborns.

A few months earlier, the Turkish government announced that it will no longer give residency permits to non-citizens for new sign-ups in such provinces as Küçükçekmece, Başakşehir, Bağcılar, Avclar, Bahçelievler, Sultangazi, Esenler and Zeytinburnu.

Türkiye hosts nearly 4 million refugees – more than any other country in the world. After the Syrian conflict broke out in 2011, Türkiye adopted an "open-door policy" for people fleeing the conflict, granting them "temporary protection" status.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians



have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.