



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



"AGPS Issues Annual Report about Situation of Palestinians of Syria in 2019"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Overburdened by Price Leap
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Denounce Mistreatment by Bank Staff
- Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Sabina Camp Marred by Power Blackout
- Negotiations over Migration Policy Reach Deadlock in Sweden

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Latest developments

The Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) issued its annual report documenting the situation of Palestinian refugees in/from Syria in 2019.

Entitled “Palestinians of Syria: Destruction and Reconstruction”, the report underscores the calamitous situation of Palestinian refugees in and outside the war-ravaged country due to war-related incidents.

The 280-page report provides fact-based data and statistics about the number of victims and detainees among the Palestinians of Syria.

As figures in the report, though the number of victims and detainees shrunk back compared to previous years, dozens of Palestinian refugees were pronounced dead in 2019.

Citing AGPS data, the report said that as many as 4,013 Palestinian refugees from Syria died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the bloody conflict in March 2011 until the end of 2019.

The report also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in displacement camps across and outside the Syrian territories.

At the same time, the study provides a detailed account of the violations perpetrated against the Palestinians of Syria in their quest to seek asylum and on their way to Europe.



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The data has been compiled by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers and researchers.

Hundreds of reports have also been released by the group on a daily basis in an attempt to draw the international community's attention to the abject state of affairs endured by PRS.

To download the report, please click here:

<http://actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/victimsofdestruction.pdf>

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS team does its best to uphold the finest standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footages, and sworn affidavits are taken directly from the fighting scene across a myriad of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS role as a human rights overseer.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees in Syria 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.

In posts circulated on social media network Facebook, activists said prices and house rents have seen a tenfold rise over recent years, exacerbating the situation of the cash-stripped families.



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The situation has been made worse by the sanctions implemented by the US as part of the so-called “Caesar Act” targeting anyone doing business with the Assad regime, including in opposition-held zones.

The load of new economic and travel sanctions also target non-Syrians who do business with the Assad regime.

The sanctions are the result of legislation known as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, named after the pseudonym of a Syrian who worked with the military police and turned over photographs of thousands of victims of torture by al-Assad's government.

The implementation of the sanctions has led to a further deterioration of the exchange rate of the Syrian pound, resulting in a worse economic situation for vulnerable families whose sole sources of income have already been affected by the bloody warfare.

Nine years into the deadly conflict, the majority of Palestinian refugees continue to live below the poverty line in Syria and are food insecure.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees in Jaramana camp and other areas in Damascus continue to rail against the mistreatment they have faced by Bemo Bank staff.



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Refugees who received transaction codes of their cash grants provided by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said they been humiliated by the bank employers who have denied them entry into the facility, forcing them to stay in the scorching summer heat for hours.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In the meantime, Palestinians taking refuge in AlSabina camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to face a squalid humanitarian condition due to the absence of vital facilities, the poor infrastructure, and lack of relief assistance.



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The situation has taken a turn for the worse due to the frequent power outages, which often last for over 16 hours. The darkness that overwhelms civilian homes at nightfall has severely affected children's already-traumatized psyche.

The residents continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the local municipality regarding their calls for supplying the area with power generators and filling main water tanks.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp.



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It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

In another development, cross-party talks on how to reform Swedish migration policy broke down on Tuesday, reported The Local.

The one thing all parties in parliament seemed to agree on was that Swedish migration law needed a complete overhaul.

Currently, a temporary law is in place, which was introduced back in 2016 after Sweden received record numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers during the crisis of the autumn before.

One change was that asylum seekers received temporary residence permits by default, whereas previously permanent residence permits were the norm. People (not just those who arrived as asylum seekers, but also Swedish citizens and residents) bringing their partners or other family members to live in Sweden had to meet certain requirements around income levels and household size.

Sweden set up a Migration Committee in late 2019, which was given the task of coming up with a new migration policy. This was agreed in the so-called January Agreement, a cross-bloc collaboration between the Social Democrat-Green coalition government and two of Sweden's opposition parties – the Liberals and the Centre Party.



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Over the past two weeks, talks have been going on between five parties, the ruling centre-left Social Democrats and four opposition parties (the Moderate, Christian Democrat, Centre and Liberal parties, all right-of-centre). Notably the Social Democrats' junior coalition partner, the Green Party, has not been involved.

On Monday, the parties reported that these talks had collapsed.

The sticking point was discussion of a *volyymmål* (volume goal), a proposed cap on the number of asylum seekers who can enter Sweden each year.

The Green Party, excluded from the negotiations, last week said it could not stand behind a policy with this kind of limit.

Now the five-party talks have collapsed, with the Moderate Party blaming the Social Democrats for siding with the Greens.

"It's abundantly clear that the Social Democrats chose the Green Party over a sustainable, realistic migration policy," the Moderates' migration policy spokesperson Maria Malmer Stenergard told the TT newswire.

Official Swedish statistics have indicated that 3,296 Palestinian asylum-seekers categorized as "stateless" received citizenship documents in Sweden in 2019.

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.



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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.