



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



### "Yarmouk Residents Denounce Blackmail by Damascus Governorate"

- Palestinian Family on Verge of Homelessness in Jordan
- Palestinian Refugee Released from Syrian Prison
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Contract COVID-19 in Turkey
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Receives Highest Score in German Vocational Center

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## Latest developments

Activists from Yarmouk camp have slammed the Damascus Governorate for blackmailing the residents who have voiced strong opposition to the new organizational plan put forth by the Governorate.

Social media networks said local authorities have been manipulating civilians' fears over the loss of their houses and property in the camp and stipulating that those wishing to oppose the new reconstruction plan pay a sum of up to 1,000 Syrian Pounds.

Activists said local authorities have been blackmailing the cash-stripped civilians and displaced families who continue to struggle for a living in the area.

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new organizational plan put forth by Damascus Governorate to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Tension has been running high in the area as thousands of refugees continue to rail against the proposed plan, amid growing fears that their homes and property will be removed from the new plan.

Sometime earlier, the Damascus Governorate said parts of Yarmouk Camp are state property, which implies that the residents are not entitled to own the land but only the property built on it.



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Recently, the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) has called on the Syrian authorities in Damascus to re-examine the new organizational plan and to rather implement the old plan which was approved in 2004.

In a statement issued sometime earlier, AGPS said plans that do not take into account Palestinians' inalienable rights make part of underway conspiracies to further displace the Palestinian people and destroy displacement camps as living witnesses to their refugee plight.

The statement said the new organizational 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 displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

Families displaced from Yarmouk Camp continue to appeal to the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian political factions in Syria to take serious measures in order to facilitate their return to the camp, to pressurize the Syrian government to abandon the new organizational plan, and to rather work on preserving the demographic and historical idiosyncrasy of the shelter.

Activists warned 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.



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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 UNRWA 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.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.

Along similar lines, a Palestinian family from Syria is about to go homeless in the Jordanian capital city of Amman as it has failed to secure rental fees for months.



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Palestinian refugee Abu Abdul Rahman, displaced from Syria's Yarmouk Camp, said his family has been struggling for survival in Amman due to difficulties in accessing the local labor market and absence of relief assistance.

The family has been unable to provide for themselves and pay power/water bills. Abu Abdul Rahman's health condition has deteriorated as a result of cardiovascular disorders and the pressure he has been undergoing to secure a livelihood for his family.

The refugee added that the house owner ordered him to either pay the bills and rental charges of the past three months or else to immediately evacuate the building.

He said UNRWA has turned its back on his cry for help.

The six-member family urged UNRWA and UNHCR to provide them with much-needed cash and in-kind assistance, to help the family pay rental fees, and provide them with the psycho-physical protection which they are quite urgently in need of.

More than 2 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA live in Jordan.

There are ten recognized Palestine refugee camps throughout the country, which accommodate nearly 370,000 Palestine refugees. Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestine refugees of all of the UNWRA fields.



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The majority of Palestine refugees have sought humanitarian assistance in Jordan, where they continue to suffer from abject poverty and live in a precarious legal status.

In another development, a Palestinian refugee was released from a Syrian government prison after one year and a half in the Sednaya military prison.

The newly-released Palestinian was a resident of Deraa displacement camp. His name has been kept secret over security concerns.

He reportedly broke away from the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) affiliated with the Syrian government forces.

In the meantime, a Palestinian family from Syria taking shelter in Gazientep allegedly contracted the novel coronavirus.

However, the family denied such reports, saying their father tested positive for coronavirus sometime earlier and has recovered following treatment at a Turkish hospital.

Unofficial data indicates that 22,000 Palestinian refugees have sought shelter in Turkey, including 8,000 to 10,000 Palestinians who fled war-ravaged Syria.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee from Syria Emad Hazem Janat garnered the highest score at a vocational training school in the German city of Hanover for the academic year 2019-2020. Imad earned a state-accredited certificate in nursing.



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Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

Almost ten years into the conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The conflict has caused immense suffering and trauma over the past years.