



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in War-Torn Syria Struggling for Survival"

- Palestinian Schoolgirl Wins Damascus Math Competition
- Committee of Displaced Palestinians from Syria Pays Visit to Lebanon NGO
- Palestinian Family Appeals for Information over Forcibly Disappeared Son in Syria
- 87 Migrants Rescued off Turkish Coast

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Latest Developments

After nine 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 price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

The refugees continue to urge UNRWA and all other concerned parties to increase financial aid, help the displaced families return to their refugee camps, and provide much-needed relief services for Palestine refugees.

Over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes, warned the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees.

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



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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.

The majority of Palestinians sheltered in displacement camps set up across the Syrian territories have remained at bay from political calculations and frequently refused attempts by all warring parties to drag them into the raging warfare, saying their priority is to secure safe shelters for their children and families pending a just and lasting solution to their refugee plight and return to their motherland—Palestine.

In another development, Palestinian child refugee Farah Ziad Khamis snatched the first rank in the SDmath 202 Competition held at the Faculty of Economics in Damascus on September 26.

Farah, from Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees, got the gold medal after she came on top of the list. 280 children took part in the contest.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian refugees have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories. Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The conflict in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating



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disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

Along similar lines, the Committee of Displaced Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon showed up on Monday, September 28, at the headquarters of the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH) in AlSaranfad.

A LWAH member expressed the association's readiness to assist Palestinian refugees with disabilities registered with the committee.

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



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movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

Meanwhile, the family of Palestinian refugee Mohamed Hamdan, born in 1996, continues to appeal for information over the condition and whereabouts of their son who was detained by the Syrian security forces in August 2013 at a checkpoint pitched near the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus.

The family said they have no idea whether their son is still alive or has been tortured to death in Syrian government prisons.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run prisons, among them 110 women.

In the meantime, the Turkish coast guard rescued 87 irregular migrants who were pushed back by Greek coast guard after they attempted to disembark on a Greek island.

Turkish news outlets said 71 migrants boarding three rubber boats were rescued off Mugla seashore. Another 16 migrants were also found and rescued off Marmaris waters after they were pushed back by Greek coast guard.

Turkey and Greece have been key transit points for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants seeking to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution.

Turkey earlier this year opened its gates for irregular migrants wanting to cross to Europe, accusing the European Union of failing to keep its promises under a 2016 migrant deal.



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Greece's response to those trying to enter the country without prior authorization has been harsh, with a number of migrants having been killed by Greek security forces along the land border with Turkey. Many others have been battered and teargassed.

Ankara already hosts over 3.5 million migrants from Syria, more than any other country in the world, and says it cannot handle another wave.

So far this year, Turkey's Coast Guard Command has rescued hundreds of migrants and asylum-seekers off the Aegean coast after they were forced by Greece into Turkish territorial waters.