



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



"Palestine Refugee Youth in Syria Caught Between Hammer and Barrel"

- Residents of AlMuzeireeb Sound Alarm over Escalation Threats by Syrian, Russian Forces
- AlRaml Camp for Palestinian Refugees Grippd with Dire Conditions
- Residents of Jaramana Camp Denounce Life-Threatening Power Installations
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Lebanon Condemn Reluctance of UN Aid Agency

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee youths continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the ten-year warfare in Syria, amidst a deadly pandemic outbreak.

Palestinian refugee youths (aged 12 – 30) make up nearly 30% of the Palestinians of Syria, estimated at 540,000 in 2014.

The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

At the same time, the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the weak infrastructure of the education systems in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Many teachers, students, and parents agreed that the quality of teaching and learning deteriorated during the



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distance education period imposed by the lockdown, despite efforts made by teaching staff.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

A researcher told AGPS that a surge in violence and divorce rates has also been recorded among PRS due to the trauma wrought by years of displacement, destruction, bloodshed, and hardship.



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Along similar lines, a vigil was held on Friday by the residents of AlMuzeireeb town, south of Syria, in response to simmering crackdowns by the Syrian regime.

The protesters lifted banners calling for neutralizing the area and for an immediate end to bloody shootouts and crackdowns.

The vigil comes amidst threats by Russian air forces to attack the area and by Syria's Fourth Division forces to launch a military operation west of Deraa in case six wanted persons are not turned in to security forces in the next few days.

AGPS has documented the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees in AlMuzeireeb town, home to 1,700 Palestinian families displaced from Daraa Camp.

Meanwhile, residents of AlRaml Camp in Latakia continue to sound distress signals over the dire conditions they have been made to endure in the area owing to the poor infrastructure, absence of vital services, and price leap.

The residents said their life has been marred by the transportation crisis, frequent power/water outages, and the poor healthcare services.

Civilians urged UNRWA to assume its responsibility in this regard and slammed the Syrian government for its apathy regarding their cries for help.



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Recently, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around the Palestinian refugee camp, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees have sounded distress signals after power cables fell off across a number of residential alleyways and schools.

The residents called on local authorities to take urgent action and carry out the needed maintenance works

The residents expressed concerns over their children's safety due to electricity-related problems.

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.



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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.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees and human rights activists continue to level heavy criticism at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over delays in humanitarian aid delivery.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of refugees said UNRWA has been using the funding crisis as a clichéd pretext for delayed aid distribution, saying their humanitarian situation in the Middle Eastern country has sharply deteriorated.

The refugees added that UNRWA should have delivered aid dispatched by the European Trust Fund and the World Food Program. They pointed the finger at UNRWA officials whom they said have been benefiting from the deposited sums.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA



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humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardship and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.