



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



"Damascus Governorate Promises Return of Displaced Families to Yarmouk Camp in Few Days"

- Power Crisis ongoing in Jaramana Camp
- Trash Mounds Piled Up in AlHusaniya Camp
- Anti-Coronavirus Emergency Plan Implemented at Syria Hospitals

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Latest Developments

Secretary-General of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF), Khaled Abdul Majid, quoted officials at Damascus Governorate as stating that the first batch of displaced families will be allowed to return to Yarmouk Camp in the next few days.

Abdul Majid said 40% of Yarmouk's overall area is habitable; 40% need reconstruction; and 20% is uninhabitable and need complete reconstruction.

He added that plans for the rehabilitation of infrastructure have not been finalized and that a committee has been following up on the families' requests to return to their houses.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage



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atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Meanwhile, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees have denounced the chronic power blackouts in the area.

An AGPS reporter said the power crisis has made the humanitarian situation inside the camp far worse, as a cold winter season has drawn near and at a time when prices of fuel and wood have skyrocketed.

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

UN data indicates that 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.



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This is not the first time that UNRWA operations in the camp were affected; the construction of a highway to Jaramana in 2006 meant that parts of the community centre, a health centre, a sanitation office, the newly installed sewerage network, urban development projects and schools had to be vacated. This was accompanied by a large number of refugee families being moved to a nearby new government housing project in the Palestine refugee gathering of al-Husseinih or to shelters in the nearby villages and camps.

The camp occupies an area of 0.03 square kilometres. Historically, the camp has been inhabited by those displaced by the conflict in 1948, as well as Palestinians who had taken refuge in the Golan Heights and were displaced as a result of the 1967 hostilities.

Along similar lines, Civilians taking shelter in Syria's AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have voiced deep concern over the health hazards inflicted by the trash mounds piled up across residential alleyways and the standing wastewater flooding the main access roads.

The residents said wastewater and garbage piles have resulted in bed smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

Photos circulated on social media network Facebook showed standing wastewater and mounds of trash in AlMadaris neighborhood.

Civilians have appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate action in order to clear garbage and remove standing wastewater.



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All the way through the nine-year Syrian conflict, Palestinians taking refuge in AlHusainiya camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

In the meantime, the Syrian Health Ministry on Monday instructed hospitals and medical centers to move to the emergency plan to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, state news agency SANA reported.

The plan includes expanding the hospitals' sectors in favor of COVID-19 patients and supporting the hospitals with trained teams to accept all suspects cases.

The ministry also called for applying the protocol to call in more medical teams in case of emergency and operate the hospitals at maximum capacity.

The ministry reported 90 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bringing the overall number of infections since March to 7,887, including 3,560 recoveries and 417 deaths.