



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

31-01-2022

No. 3486

## التقرير اليومي

### الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Refugee Families in Northern Syria Displacement Camps Struggling for Survival"

- UNRWA Chief: Palestinians of Syria Striving to Get One Meal per Day
- Activists Warn Yarmouk Residents against Attempts to Turn Their Property into Bargaining Chips
- Bread Crisis Takes Turn for Worse in Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee families sheltered in displacement camps set up in northern Syria continue to launch distress signals over their abject humanitarian condition in the substandard facilities set up in the area.

Displaced Palestinian families said they have not benefited from cash aid and relief items collected in favor of marginalized and vulnerable families in northern Syria.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deir Ballout, Muhammadiya, and AlSadaka camps have appealed to Palestinians across occupied territories to raise funds on their behalf.

The families continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and all other local and international bodies regarding their tragic situation.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns. For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.



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Recently, a snowstorm has hit Syria and the Middle East. Heavy snowfall has affected north-west Syria since 18 January, damaging displacement sites, tents and people's belongings.

Along similar lines, Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, said Palestinian refugees in Syria continue to struggle to get one meal a day.

This comes in a meeting held in Geneva with representatives of UN Member-States.

Lazzarini said the refugees are living in a state of despair due to protracted displacement. 90% of them live below the poverty line.

The UNRWA chief added that a cash grant of 75,000 Syrian pounds will be delivered to the most vulnerable families while the other registered families will receive 55,000.

UN data indicates that the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced. There used to be 560'000 countrywide, mainly in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus and Deraa.

AGPS calls on the international community and UN bodies to provide urgent assistance to the Palestinian refugee communities in/from Syria and to push for the reconstruction of destroyed refugee camps.



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Meanwhile, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

With the return of a number of families to Yarmouk, prices of houses and property have skyrocketed in the Camp.

Prices of homes in their current condition in the Waseem residential area range between 65 and 108 million Syrian pounds while their prices ranged months ago between 30 and 70 million pounds.

The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and properties.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

Over recent years, human rights activists have accused dealers affiliated with the Free Palestine Movement, led by Palestinian-Syrian businessman Yasser Qashlaq, of standing behind the purchase of property from Yarmouk residents. The Nikken Syria company, which was founded with the participation of Iranian investors, has also reportedly been involved in such deals.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees,



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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 relief institutions 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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to line up for hours outside of the camp's sole bakery to receive bread packs.

Displaced Palestinian families lashed out at the social development committee and bread supply authorities for manipulating bread distribution, saying bread packs have been sold on the black market.



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The residents also slammed the bakery staff for mistreating civilians lining up for bread.

Sometime earlier, special sources said authorities increased the quantities of flour and fuel allocated to the camp following appeals by the residents and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR). However, the bread crisis persists.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Eshieh camp have spoken up against the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After eleven years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.