



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



"PLA Conscripts Arrested by Syrian Security Forces"

- Resident of Palestinian Refugee Camp of AlHusainiya Succumbs to Coronavirus
- AGPS: 252 Palestinian Children Killed in War-Torn Syria
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Steep Bread Prices in Syria
- Commission of Palestinians of Syria in Burj AlBarajneh Launches Its Mission

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Latest Developments

Six members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) have been arrested by Syrian security forces over allegations of stealing military uniforms and blankets.

Last July, Syria's security branch 291 summoned PLA's services chief and accountants to questioning.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

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.

In another development, a resident of AlHusainiya camp was pronounced dead on October 31 after he contracted COVID-19.

AGPS has not revealed his name at his family's request.

AGPS has documented the death of over 21 Palestinian refugees in Syria as a result of coronavirus. Dozens of cases have been recorded over recent weeks.

Over recent months, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and



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medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Meanwhile, AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in Syria due to war-related incidents.

The list of victims includes 70 children who died due to the blockade imposed by the Syrian government forces and its armed allies on Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

AGPS also documented the secret incarceration of 48 Palestinian minors in Syrian government prisons, where two children died under torture.

Sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their moms' arms in Syrian prisons and whose fates have remained shrouded in mystery.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

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



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AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees in government-held zones in Syria said they have been struggling to fetch bread loafs to feed their starved families as a result of the price hike.

On Thursday, November 29, the Syrian government gave instructions that state-run bakeries sell subsidised bread for 100 pounds per packet, up from 50 pounds.

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

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.

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.

Along similar lines, the Commission of Palestinians of Syria in Burj AlBarajneh camp, in Lebanon, said in a press statement that displaced Palestinians from Syria in the camp wrote authorizations



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mandating the commission to follow up on their humanitarian condition, speak up for their demands, and reach out to relief organizations to that end.

The Commission said that the press statement signals the launch of its official mission and that no other party is entitled to speak on behalf of the refugees.

The Commission defines itself as an independent body with no political affiliations whatsoever and that its mission is shaped by the needs of the Palestinians of Syria.

The statement concluded by urging the Palestine Liberation Organization to stand on guard to all parties seeking to exacerbate the plight of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

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 humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships 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



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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.