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## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

### **Humanitarian Situation of Palestinians in Turkey Exacerbated by House Rents**

- UN Body Warns of Cholera-Infected Cancer in Syria
- Palestinian Girl Gets Highest Score at UNRWA School
- Syria Embassy in Lebanon Launches E-Portal for Passport Applications



## Latest Developments

Displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria have voiced deep concern over the increase in house rents in Turkey. A number of house owners asked them to pay rents in USD.

In areas such as Başakşehir and Kayaşehir, house rents have seen a 300%, up from the 29.88% set by the Turkish government in April.

In Başakşehir and Fatih house rents are estimated between 7,000 to 10,000 Turkish liras. In residential complexes, prices reach up to 15,000.

A Palestinian refugee called Samir told AGPS that last year he paid 22,000 for a house he rented in Esnler. Five days before the end of the contract, the house owner asked for 6,000.

Several refugee families have abandoned their rented houses after they failed to pay the required sums.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Turkey are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along similar lines, the Assistance Coordination Unit warned of the spread of cholera in northwestern Syria, as a result of malnutrition and poor immunity, especially among vulnerable people sheltered in substandard facilities.

Director of the Unit's vaccination program Muhammad Salem attributed the disease propagation in Syria to the absence of healthcare and poor infrastructure as a result of the conflict.

He expressed fear that cholera will turn into an endemic in a country where the infrastructure, health care facilities, and vital services have been ravaged.

The Unit called on Syrian authorities to increase water supplies in the region and provide vulnerable families with potable water to help them combat the deadly virus.

Last month, the UN humanitarian relief coordinator for the country warned that the official declaration of a cholera outbreak



in the Aleppo region of Syria represents a serious threat to people in Syria and the whole Middle East region.

AGPS has also called a swift and urgent action to prevent further illness and death. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations partners should coordinate with health authorities to ensure a timely and effective response.

The outbreak was declared on 10 September by the Syrian Ministry of Health, following 15 confirmed laboratory cases, including one patient death. A total of 936 cases of severe acute watery diarrhoea were reported between 25 August and 10 September, which led to at least eight deaths.

The outbreak is an indicator of severe shortages of water throughout Syria, an issue AGPS has been sounding alarm bells on for some time.

While the Euphrates levels were dropping with drought-like conditions and a national water infrastructure damaged by 11 years of war, much of the already vulnerable population of Syria is reliant on unsafe water sources, which may lead to the spread of dangerous water-borne diseases, particularly among children.

Water shortages are forcing households to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as changing hygiene practices or increasing household debt to afford water costs.

AGPS data indicates that 15 residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, caught cholera.

In the meantime, Palestinian-Syrian girl Rama Salam, displaced from Yarmouk refugee camp to Dummar, is among thousands of students who recently passed the national ninth-grade exam. She scored 3,090 out of a total 3,100 points, the highest score of all UNRWA students in Syria.

Rama experienced the trauma inflicted by the eleven-year conflict, with daily scenes of bloodshed and deadly shelling taking place around the clock.

“Words can't describe how happy I was on the evening of 19 July when the result of the national ninth-grade exam came out! Although I was sure I did well, my heart beat faster and my nerves





tensed. Finally, the most awaited date came,” said Rama. "It was an evening of great joy and happiness. It was the best evening of my life because my relatives and friends called to congratulate me," she happily added.

Displaced from Yarmouk, 14-year-old Rama lives with her family in Dummar in Damascus and goes to the UNRWA Ein Ghazal School. Although she was only five years old when her family left the camp in search of safety due to the deteriorating situation, Rama remembers the sky well, the blinding clouds of dust from shelling engulfing the area. Leaving everything behind was a traumatic experience for her family. What sticks out in Rama's childhood memory most is the darkness. "Shells were blasting all around us. I could see sparks everywhere and heard the sound of debris flying," she recalls.

Like other students, Rama faced daunting challenges of repeated hours of power cuts and exerted tremendous efforts to keep up with her studies. She was used to studying by candlelight most nights or studying on her mother's smartphone. She doesn't have a computer, tablet or laptop.

"Finals week can be a stressful time for any student, but with successful study preparation plans, you can take on any final exam with confidence!" Rama highlighted.

According to Rama, hard work is rewarding and nothing matches the feeling of happiness and pride you get when you receive excellent grades. She is confident that her success is a result of hard work and a quality education and attributes her achievements to support from her teachers, her school principal and her mother.

Her mother and teachers describe Rama as diligent student, despite the odds and the prolonged displacement. She is determined to thrive in her studies and succeed to fulfil her dreams to be a dentist. "Education is hope. It will help me in achieving my future goals," Rama said.

In the meantime, the Syrian Embassy in Lebanon said it will be receiving passport applications through an online appointment.

In a statement, the embassy said concerned persons, including Palestinians from Syria, can apply for a meeting as of October 03.



Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are considered as foreigners rather than asylum seekers fleeing war and economic hardship.

Scores of PRS have had difficulties gaining access to vital facilities. Passport issuance costs 350USD for PRS, in a country where unemployment rates have reached a zenith.