



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



"With Advent of Winter, Palestinian Refugees Struggling for Survival in Northern Syria"

- Damascus Governorate: Return of Displaced Families to Yarmouk Camp Priority
- AlSabina Camp Suffers Acute Shortage in Fuel Supplies
- Palestinian Artist Released after One Year in Syrian Prisons
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Complicated Red Tape Slapped by Palestine Consulate in Istanbul

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Latest Developments

As a cold winter season has drawn near, hundreds of displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in northern Syria continue to raise concerns over their alarming humanitarian condition.

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.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Last year, tents have been flooded with water as torrential downpours have swamped Palestinian refugee camps in Afrin, north of Syria.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media showed dozens of tents as being swamped by rain deluges while children appear to be shivering of cold.

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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In another development, Damascus governor Adel AlAleibi said the General Company for Technical Studies has just finalized its assessment of the situation in Yarmouk Camp and provided three alternatives as to the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp: The first is to make minor reconstruction to affected zones; the second option is to have Yarmouk street expanded; and the third is based on a total reconstruction of the camp.

The Governor said families wishing to return to the camp and retrieve their houses and property should present legal ownership proofs.

He added that priority is being given to families whose houses and property are located in habitable areas.

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.

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



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Meanwhile, activists from AlSabina Camp expressed fears over an acute fuel crisis in the area after reports have emerged on the government's intent to reduce fuel supplies from 200 to 100 liters.

Over recent years, residents of AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees have slammed fuel distributors whom they said have been caught cheating civilians in the area and reducing the distributed quantities.

The residents have urged the concerned authorities, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Syria, Syria's General Authority for Hydrocarbons, and the Department of Consumer Affairs in Rif Dimashq to take urgent action in response to fuel distribution fraud and prop up monitoring mechanisms against crooked merchants.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in the area continue to sound distress signals over the poor infrastructure, water and power outages, along with the absence of health care and transportation services. The swift price leap along with the high rates of unemployment and poverty have made the situation far worse.

In another development, Palestinian artist Hayel Diab, from Yarmouk Camp, was released from Syria prisons on November 30, 2020, after he had been detained for a year.

Diab, who fled to Malmo, in Sweden, was arrested by the end of 2019, as he attempted to visit his relatives in Syria.



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Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In the meantime, the General Palestinian Consulate in Istanbul said refugees wishing to show up at the consulate should book an appointment in advance.

A statement posted on the consulate website said Palestinian expatriates will not be allowed in unless they have been given earlier consent through email.

Unofficial data indicates that 22,000 Palestinian refugees have sought shelter in Turkey, including 8,000 to 10,000 Palestinians who fled war-ravaged Syria.