



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Continue to Achieve Success Stories Worldwide"

- Residents of AlSabina Camp Denounce Chronic Power Blackout
- Palestinian Refugee Family Appeals for Electric Wheelchair to Paralyzed Son
- Palestinian Refugee Ahmed AlKhatib Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In late 2020, some 27 Palestinian refugee students graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Syria.

Palestinian refugee Nowras Rahhal has made cutting-edge work on a COVID-19 vaccine, challenging the traumatic impact of his statelessness and the psychological scars of the Syria war.

Scientist Rahhal, who moved to Germany two years ago from Syria's war-shattered capital Damascus, is stateless - meaning no country recognizes him as a citizen.

Rahhal, 27, has just finished working with a team at one of the Max Planck institutes on developing a system allowing a COVID-19 vaccine to be applied to the skin, rather than injected into muscle. The technique - targeting specialist immune cells in the skin that



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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

can trigger an immune reaction in the body - would require a far smaller dose per person, a big advantage when inoculating large populations.

Before arriving in Germany, Rahhal spent years studying to the sound of bombings and artillery fire, using his phone torch to read when the electricity cut out at his Damascus home.

But Rahhal's academic achievements are remarkable for another reason - stateless people often struggle to access education.

At the same time, Palestinian journalist Bisan Zarzar, who fled war-torn Syria to the Netherlands some six years ago, has achieved an outstanding career in the Western European country.

Bisan worked with “Holland Now” radio program and successfully broadcasted her series “Pursue your higher studies with Bisan”.

She started her academic career as a student at the Modern Middle East Studies department at Leiden University. She currently works as a correspondent with Arab news outlets. She is active on social media and has a Youtube channel.

She has recently embarked on a podcast project entitled “Any idea?” to provide pieces of news about the Arab community in The Netherlands.

Palestinian refugee Ahmad Fayez Diab, raised in Syria's Khan Eshieh camp, also earned the highest score at the Economics and Sales Department at Linz University. He was honored by the



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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Governor of Upper Austria, Thomas Stelzer, during a ceremony held in the city.

Ahmed's family was displaced from Tabariya village, in Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1948, to Khan Eshieh camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province. He fled the war-torn country to Austria in 2014.

In another development, Palestinian families taking shelter in AlSabina refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the chronic power outages, which they said last for over 18 hours daily.

Civilians said the power crisis has made life unbearable in the area, at a time when freezing temperatures continues to grip the region.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

Meanwhile, the family of disabled Palestinian child from Syria Ahmad Assaad, aged 14, has appealed to the Palestine Embassy in Turkey and concerned humanitarian organizations to help them secure an electric wheelchair for their hemiplegic child.

Ahmad's brother suffers the same disease.

The family, displaced from Yarmouk Camp and currently seeking shelter in Izmir, said the wheelchair costs 600 USD.

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.



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

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Ali Ahmad AlKhatib, from Khan Dannun camp, in Rif Dimashq, has been secretly held in Syrian regime prisons for the seventh consecutive year.

The refugee was arrested by Syrian security forces on January 28, 2014, on the highway to Damascus International Airport. His condition and whereabouts could not be identified.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who tested positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.

The Syrian authorities and all concerned parties should also take precautionary measures and enhance captivity conditions to rein in a tragic propagation of the virus in jail.