



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

02-05-2020

No. 2747

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Missile Hits School in Palestinian Displacement Camp in Syria"

- Palestinian Families Displaced from Yarmouk Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Aid
- UNRWA to Transfer Cash Grants to Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Abu Shanar Secretly Held in Syrian State Prison for 8th Year

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Latest Developments

A missile has rocked AlShajara School, in AlAyedeen camp for Palestinian refugees in Hums after a munitions store went off in the area, resulting in heavy material damage and a state of panic among the residents.

State-run media sources said the blast took place at 09:30 a.m. on May 1 and caused deaths and injuries.

Some 13,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.



UN data indicates that the camp lies within the town of Houms, 160 km north of Damascus, on an area of 0.15 square kilometers, adjacent to al-Baath University. The camp was established in 1949 following the displacement of Palestinians during the first Arab-Israeli War of 1948-49. Many of the refugees living in the camp are



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originally from the villages surrounding Haifa, Tiberias and Acre in northern Palestine.

Before the crisis, the camp was home to 22,000 Palestine refugees. The majority of them used to work as laborers, local civil servants and vendors. However, since the start of the conflict in 2011, the original camp population has reduced to 9,000, with many seeking refuge abroad.

The camp has remained relatively calm and stable, despite Hums city being one of the most severely affected cities by the war with several neighborhoods reduced to rubble. This has caused the camp population to increase - thousands of displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees from Hums itself, as well as other areas, have moved to the camp. Demand for UNRWA services has grown due to this influx. There are currently 13,000 Palestine refugees living in the camp, and another 2,000 in surrounding areas.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees seeking shelter in Jdeidat Artouz town, in Rif Dimashq's western outskirts, after they were displaced from Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, said they have not received humanitarian aid donated by charities and relief institutions.

The refugees denounced the “discriminatory” aid distribution process, saying that they have not received relief aid recently



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distributed as part of a humanitarian campaign launched by the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief in partnership with the Palestine Today TV channel.

Activists said that over recent days, food parcels were handed over to displaced families in the area. However, Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk camp have not had access to such relief items.



Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk refugee camp to Jdeidat Artouz, in Rif Dimashq, are unable to cope with the coronavirus outbreak as they have not received medical assistance by UNRWA.

The residents say no precautionary measures have been taken in the area, where dozens of displaced families live below the poverty line.

Over recent weeks, Palestinian refugees sheltered across the Syrian territories have kept urging UNRWA to assist them in their fight against the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Recently, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help



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spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

In another development, director of UNRWA operations in Lebanon, Claudio Cordone, said the Agency will deliver cash aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, adding that the allotted sum will be announced sometime next week.

In response to the announcement, director of Commission 302 for Defense of Refugee Rights, Ali Huweidi, expressed fears that 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria and some 61,672 other Palestinian refugees registered as part of the Social Safety Net Programme will be deprived from the allotted aid grants.



A few days earlier, UNRWA said it delayed delivery of cash aid because it has been seeking higher currency exchange rates in an attempt to increase the purchasing value of the allocated grants.

The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they



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continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Hasan Abu Shanar has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government prisons since October 27, 2012.

One month after his detention, his family appealed to the deputy Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Talel Naji, to work on disclosing their son's whereabouts and condition. However, Naji's pledges have not been met and the detainee's fate remains shrouded in mystery.

The refugee is a resident of AlTadhamun neighborhood in Damascus and the father of three children.

According to AGPS statistics, 1,794 Palestinian refugees, including 110 women and girls, have been mysteriously locked up in Syrian government dungeons.