



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

03-02-2021

No. 3125

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinians from Syria in Sudan Grappling with Dire Conditions"

- Palestinian Refugee Pronounced Dead in Libya
- Northern Syria Displacement Camps Declared Disaster Zones
- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon
- AGPS Reiterates Calls for Sharing "Untold Stories"
- Palestinian Refugees in Jaramana Camp Denounce Poor Sewerage

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Victims

Palestinian refugee Ismail Husain, born in 1991, succumbed to wounds he sustained after a missile targeted a car which he was boarding on way to the Libyan city of Sert.

Ismail was a resident of Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees, in Syria.

Latest Developments

Palestinians from Syria have been subjected to abject living conditions in Sudan, where they are treated as foreigners rather than refugees.

Relief institutions have failed to live up to their duties as regards the Palestinian refugee community from Syria, who has been overburdened by the costly fees of visas and registration procedures.

Low wages, high rates of unemployment, and socio-economic marginalization have made life unbearable for Palestinian refugees in Sudan, forcing dozens of refugees to beg in the streets in order to feed their starved families.

Dozens of families who fled to Libya, in a life-threatening journey via the Sudanese desert, attempting to head for Europe onboard the “death boats”, have fallen prey to arbitrary abductions, exploitation, and looting by human traffickers and sea gangsters.



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Palestinians from Syria in Sudan have also been subjected to steep education fees, hitting up to \$150 at schools and \$3,000 at universities. Calls have been frequently launched to teach Palestinian children at UNICEF-run schools.

The refugees continue to slam the apathy maintained by the Palestine Embassy as regards their humanitarian condition and the difficulties they have been made to endure trying to obtain a Palestinian passport.

Sudan used to be the only country where Palestinians from Syria are let in without complicated legal procedures. A refugee obtains an entry permit from the Interior Ministry at a cost of no more than \$100. However, traffickers, who have been taking advantage of the situation, continue to blackmail refugees and force them to pay as much as \$1000 to enter the Sudanese territories.

Palestinians from Syria in Sudan are scattered across Khartoum, Khartoum Bahri (North), and Omdurman.

Along similar lines, Syria Response Coordination Group (SRCG) said displacement camps set up in and around Aleppo, north of Syria, are disaster areas.

In a report issued last Thursday about the situation in northern Syria, SRCG said that since 2012 the camps have been heavily damaged by torrential rainfall, resulting in movement restrictions and heavy material damage.



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The group called on the international community and humanitarian institutions to take urgent action in order to assist displaced families taking shelter in substandard housing facilities set up in northern Syria and repair damaged infrastructure.

Last week, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families sheltered in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya refugee camps, in northern Syria, have launched distress calls due to water floods from Efrin River.

The residents said the flow rate far exceeds the capacity of the river channel, resulting in water deluges in the poorly-equipped camps.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media show dozens of Palestinian refugees lying in the streets, without roofs over their heads, and children shivering of cold.

Over recent months, displaced Palestinian families in northern Syria have expressed concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has engulfed the region.

Refugee families and activists have lashed out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, and all other concerned bodies regarding their tragic situation.

Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped and over-crowded tents where neither power nor water supplies are available.



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High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said on Wednesday that it will transfer cash grants to Palestinian refugees from Syria covering the months of January and February.

The allotted sums will be transferred through Bankmed. Registered refugees will be able to withdraw their cash allowances through ATM cards starting February 11, 2021 while beneficiaries of social insurances can withdraw their cash aid as of February 17.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency's cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of



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movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

In the meantime, AGPS renews calls for participation in the “Untold Stories” competition. This is your chance to tell your or someone else’s story that has been left out of history books and put your/their voice at the forefront of war literature.

We’re inviting you to write your own narrative as part of the “Untold Stories” competition. Your short story should focus on the tragedy that has befallen the Palestinians of Syria due to war-related incidents, most notably shelling, blockade, abduction, and displacement. The text should focus on a single experience.

To be shortlisted for the prize please send your well-written story to the following email: tellus@actionpal.org.uk

Our competition is open to anyone who has an untold story to share with us. Entry closes on March 15, 2021.

The winner will receive a prize of 200 USD. The second and third best stories will receive respectively 100 USD and 50 USD.

In another development, Palestinian families taking refuge in Jaramana camp, in Rif Dimashq, said drinking water has been contaminated by sewage, causing it to become foul and salty.

The residents attributed the crisis to damaged sewerage infrastructure and absence of maintenance works.



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The families continue to urge the local authorities and relief institutions to make urgent steps in order to rinse out wastewater and enhance hygiene in the area.

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Jaramana Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.