



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



### "Syrian Regime Closes Off Humanitarian Corridor to Deraa Camp"

- Lazzarini: Palestinian Refugees in Syria Living on One Meal
- Mounds of Debris Block Civilians' Access to Yarmouk Camp
- 98 Palestinian Residents of AlNeirab Camp Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime
- Palestinian Refugees Struggling for Survival on Greek Island

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

Assad regime forces have been blockading a crowded neighborhood Ghorz area, east of Deraa, in southern Syria, with roadblocks.

The blockaded thoroughfare is the main corridor through which food items and medicines are passed on to Deraa city.

The regime has been keeping the Daraa Balad neighborhood and other access roads under blockade for the eleventh consecutive day to prevent the transportation of humanitarian aid supplies.

On June 25, the regime forces asked the residents and former opposition forces to lay down all light weapons and allow them to search their homes. However, the Daraa Central Committee, the main reconciliation center in the area, noted that they were only supposed to hand in heavy weapons as part of the Russian-brokered agreement signed in July 2018. The regime then started imposing a blockade on some 40,000 civilians living in the area.

All entrances and exits from the district have been blocked, and the transportation of all medical and food assistance, as well as fuel, has been prohibited.

Daraa-based activists told Anadolu Agency (AA) that another reason for the regime to impose the blockade was because the region's people had opposed setting up ballot boxes for the regime's so-called elections.



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Daraa was one of the main bastions of opposition that came under intense attacks by the regime.

In 2018, Assad regime forces, backed by allied Russian forces, started a massive ground and air offensive to retake Daraa from the opposition. The onslaught forced more than 320,000 people to flee and camp in open spaces or makeshift shelters near the border with Jordan or the Golan Heights.

Currently, opposition groups who chose to stay continue their fight with light arms in regions that regime forces have infiltrated. Although Assad regime forces claim that Daraa is completely under their control, in reality, there are constant attacks by unknown forces. During these attacks, many regime figures, including high-ranking military officials, have been killed.

Along similar lines, UNRWA's Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini warned that in Syria, 10 years of conflict have left the country and its Palestine refugee community shattered.

"Many Palestine refugees in Syria report living on one meal a day", Lazzarini told the Virtual Advisory Commission. "Over 90 per cent of them are under the poverty line".

"In Lebanon, over 50 per cent of the population lives under the poverty line, including almost all Palestine refugees, who were already among the most marginalized communities in the country. Even access to daily commodities and services have become a struggle for almost everyone in Lebanon. Palestine



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refugees in camps are so desperate that I called Lebanon an internal emergency on my last visit there in April”, he warned.

Lazzarini added that Jordan suffers the ripple effect of events in the West Bank and the long-term impact of the war in Syria, in addition to its own challenges. Palestine refugees, especially those from Syria, face immense economic hardship and only have UNRWA to turn to.

COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact remain rife, as vaccination coverage remains low in the region. Host countries urgently need more vaccines to prevent further waves of infections and for the economies to recover.

“While we might seem to be in a better financial position compared to this time last year, we are not yet financially stable. We continue to live month by month. The return of the United States support has allowed us to reduce the shortfall. In return though, some major regional partners are still absent and other have reduced their contributions this year”, said Lazzarini.

UNRWA’s chief added that the Agency’s Emergency Appeals for the Syria regional crisis and for the occupied Palestinian territory also remain seriously underfunded at respectively 35 per cent and 62 per cent. Funds are urgently needed to sustain food and cash assistance to over two million refugees across the region and continue our protection work in the West Bank.



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Meanwhile, mounds of debris continue to be spotted everywhere across the ravaged Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, blocking civilians' access to their homes and property.

Some three years ago, precisely on April 19, 2018, Syrian regime forces and their Russian allies showered the camp with missiles and mortars, resulting in dozens of deaths among Palestinian refugees and hundreds of injuries.

Over 60% of buildings and facilities in Yarmouk Camp have been reduced to rubble and civilian homes razed to the ground.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk's families have lived on sporadic aid handed over to them by UNRWA.

Civilians continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to speed up reconstruction works and rehabilitate infrastructure and vital facilities, including water and power networks.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area.





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Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19.

Entering its 10th year, the Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country. In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In another development, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 98 Palestinian refugees living in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

A number of Palestinians who had sought refuge in the camp were also fatally tortured in Syria's government prisons.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of over 1,790 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run penal complexes.

AGPS believes that the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian authorities on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the refugee families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.



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Activists have accused pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

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).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons, release the bodies of those tortured to death, 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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees seeking shelter in migrant tents set up on the Greek island of Chios have been struggling with dire conditions.

Palestinian refugees said they have failed to secure potable water and food items in the camp. Several migrants sustained skin diseases and infections due to poor hygiene and medical neglect.



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Palestinian refugees and other migrants have been subjected to a dire humanitarian situation in migrant camps and other substandard facilities set up in Greece, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone.

Over recent years, Greece's refugee camps have been running at four or five times their capacities, with tens of thousands of migrants crammed into poorly-equipped tents.

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.