



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



"New Fish Species Named after Palestinian Biologist Adwan Shehab"

- 6 Palestinian Refugees freed in Turkey, Kidnappers Detained
- AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees Facing Water Crisis
- Healthcare Initiative Launched in Khan Eshieh Camp

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Latest Developments

Two German research centers named a new fish species after the Palestinian-Syrian biologist Adwan Shehab in recognition of his efforts in marine research and scientific studies.

In a report published by the Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science in Berlin and the Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum - Leibniz Institute for Animal Biodiversity in Bonn, the new fish has been named “Oxynoemacheilus Shehabi”, a species of stone loach from the upper Orontes in southern Syria.

The report emphasized that naming this “little fish” after a great scientist who made outstanding contributions in research about new species in 2008 helps ensure that the horrors of the war in Syria are never forgotten and the silence surrounding Adwan’s death be broken.

Shehab, born in 1967, studied at the University of Damascus and obtained his Ph.D. in 1999. He worked at the General Authority for Scientific Agricultural Research in Damascus and the Arab Society for Plant Protection. He was assassinated on February 16, 2015 by anonymous gunmen who stormed his house in the Sa`sa area near Khan Eshieh, in Rif Dimashq province. He was a resident of AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees.

In another development, Turkish authorities managed to free 23 migrants, including six Palestinian refugees, after they were



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kidnapped and held captive by Afghani gangsters in the Turkish metropolitan city of Istanbul.

The gangsters locked the migrants inside an isolated house in Avcilar and forced them at gunboat to decipher the secret codes of their bank accounts on claims they had arrived in Italy.

Over recent years, Palestinian refugees among other migrants have fallen prey to abductions, property-theft, and blackmailing by gangsters and human smugglers in Turkey and Greece.

Meanwhile, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to launch cries for help over their tragic living conditions as water pumps have gone inoperative for weeks due to chronic power blackouts.

The refugees lashed out at the concerned authorities over their apathy regarding the acute dearth in potable water. Civilians continue to line up in long queues for hours to purchase water from mobile tanks at exorbitant prices.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

In the meantime, the charity committee of the Islamic Jihad Movement, in cooperation with specialized clinics in Jazmatia, in



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Damascus, announced the launch of free medical days at specialized cardiac and gynecological clinics.

Residents of Khan ESheih camp for Palestinian refugees, west of Rif Dimashq, will be benefiting from the initiative February 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Medicines will be provided for free to the concerned patients.

Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp continue to call on UNRWA to enhance healthcare services in the area, where only one clinic has been operative.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the eleven-year warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.



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The camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected, including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.