



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



"Palestinian Refugees in Syria's Handarat Camp Call for Reconstruction"

- Telecommunications Network Cut Off in AlHusainiya Camp
- Expatriate Pays Debts of Cash-Stripped Families in Jaramana Camp
- Power Crisis ongoing in AlSabina Camp
- Romania Announces New Contribution to UNRWA

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Latest Developments

Activists and civilians sheltered in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been appealing to all concerned parties to work on reconstructing civilian homes and facilities that have been reduced to rubble all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict.

Left without roofs over their heads, a number of families have been striving to reconstruct the destroyed walls of their homes in order to provide their homeless children with safer shelters.

Palestinian refugees have also been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.



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According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.

Along similar lines, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees have railed against the blackouts in the landline service and internet connection.

Civilians said local authorities attributed the breakdown to problems in the local sanitation network.

The residents slammed the reluctance shown by local municipality staff regarding their appeals, saying they have been paying phone and internet fees.

Palestinians taking refuge in AlHusainiya camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

Meanwhile, a former resident of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees has paid the debts of the most vulnerable families in the camp.

The donor, living in a foreign country, paid debt books at two groceries in AlQietiya and ALTahrir neighborhoods. He also paid rents of another poor family.



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Recently, activists from Jaramana refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, have embarked on a campaign to pay home rents for the poorest families in the area, amid the economic hardship inflicted by coronavirus outbreak.

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.

In the meantime, Palestinian families taking shelter in AlSabina refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the chronic power outage which they said has also affected their access to potable water.

Civilians said the power crisis has made life unbearable in the area and urged local authorities to take serious measures in response to their appeals.

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 aid, 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.



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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.

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.

In another development, a high-level Romanian delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, visited the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Jordan on 4 April and met with Ms. Leni Stenseth, Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA, and Ms. Marta Lorenzo, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan. The delegation discussed the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in Jordan and the other fields of UNRWA operations, as well as the importance of protecting and strengthening the



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Agency's humanitarian and development services to this vulnerable population, especially in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, protracted conflicts in the region, and recurrent funding crises.

In the meeting, Minister Aurescu said: "Romania appreciates the important work of UNRWA in providing assistance and basic services to Palestine refugees in the region. In recognition of this and the Agency's call for sustained financial and political support, I am pleased to announce a new contribution of EUR 150,000 to UNRWA to support the delivery of core services."

The funds from Romania will go towards education and health-care services in all five fields of UNRWA operation and help to ensure uninterrupted service delivery, especially now as UNRWA is facing a difficult financial crisis.

Ms. Leni Stenseth said: "We are grateful for our partnership with Romania and for the timely announcement of this new contribution as we intensify our efforts to mobilize the international community around developing a forward-looking and sustainable vision for UNRWA to effectively protect and assist Palestine refugees, pending a just solution to their plight."

Ms. Marta Lorenzo said: "We are very grateful for the opportunity to engage with Romania on the situation of Palestine refugees in Jordan, including those who have been displaced from Syria. This community deserves the continued support of our international partners, especially as the impact of COVID-19 dramatically reverses their development opportunities."



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Romania has been a financial contributor to UNRWA since 2007, providing support to the Agency's core services, as well as emergency support to flash appeals in response to humanitarian needs arising from conflict in Gaza as well as displacement in Lebanon.