



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

08-05-2021

No. 3215

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"Palestinian Refugees in Syria Celebrate International Jerusalem Day"**

- Displaced Families Push for Return to, Reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Starts Reconstruction Projects in Hindarat Camp
- UNRWA Transfers Cash Aid to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon
- Turkey Grants Marriage Permits for Holders of Temporary Visas

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## Latest Developments

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Syria joined on Friday vigils held in displacement camps across the war-torn country to mark the International Jerusalem Day.

The refugees chanted slogans and lifted banners confirming their unyielding commitment to their right to return to their motherland and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The refugees also expressed solidarity with the Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem, particularly worshipers at AlAqsa Mosque and families living in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood who are threatened by Israel's eviction plan.

In another development, Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

In 2019, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage



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atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Mounds of debris continue to be spotted everywhere across the ravaged Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, which has come under heavy shelling all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict.

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.

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

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.

Along similar lines, UNRWA has started clearing debris near AlZeib School and the Women's Centre in Hindarat camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

The works make part of a UNRWA plan to reconstruct its premises in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. To that end, UNRWA struck a contract with Mohamed AlSai'd Construction Company.



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Ten years into the Syrian conflict, Palestinian refugees displaced from Handarat Camp have been confronted with increased hardship due to protracted displacement and the loss of livelihoods.

Some eight years ago, precisely on April 27, 2013, Palestinian refugee families fled the camp in mass due to deadly shelling. They sought refuge in university dormitories and government shelters in and around Aleppo. Scores of other families risked their lives onboard Europe-bound “death-boats”.

The situation is made worse by the socio-economic fallouts of the coronavirus pandemic and the price leap.

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 areas in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

In the meantime, UNRWA in Lebanon said cash grants covering the months of April and May will be delivered to the Palestinians of Syria through Liban Post starting May 8.

The concerned refugees will receive text messages from Liban Post determining the grant reference and withdrawal office.

UNRWA’s cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling





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with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA’s factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country’s 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of



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another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, the Turkish Migration Directorate issued on May 7 a new decision greenlighting marriage permits for holders of tourist visas and temporary protection cards known as “kimlik”.

Marriage permits can be obtained through “E delvet” application.

Recently, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Turkey have expressed concerns over their deteriorating condition particularly in light of the new movement clampdown imposed across Turkish provinces as part of anti-coronavirus measures.

A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.