



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



"Palestinian Students Achieve Excellent Results at Syria High Schools"

- UNRWA Provides Overview of Its Mission in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Grappling with Water/Power Outages
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria's T'Seil Town Appeal for Healthcare Services
- Palestinian Refugee Rashid Achour Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8th Year

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Latest Developments

A number of Palestinian students obtained their high school diplomas in Syria with honors.

Tala Mahmoud Khalaf, from Yarmouk Camp, has earned the highest score (2900/2900); Kusay Mahmoud Abdullah, also from Yarmouk Camp got the highest score at the Literature Branch in his district; Lujain Suleiman and Lana AlKhadraa ranked fourth at the level of Damascus Governorate, with a score of 2894/2900 each; Amjad Rustom, from Handarat camp, won the first rank at the industrial high school in Aleppo governorate.

Several other students earned high scores, including Tuka Dawah (2888/2900), Aya Akram Abbas (2866/2900), Ahmed Ihsan Al-Hosary (237.8/240), Maryam Hegazy (2880/2900), Lujain Nasser Muhammad (235.5/240).

Student Moad Qassem Al-Khatib got a score of 2346/2400; Najm Wael Hadid got a score of 2861/2900; While Ahmed Emad

Munawar graduated from the High School of Commerce with a score of 87/100. Palestinian student Abdul Rahman Tayseer Hadid got a score of 235.2/240.

In another development, UNRWA in Syria said it has began providing some basic services to returned Yarmouk residents since September 2020.



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In an effort to offer services to particularly vulnerable persons in Yarmouk, UNRWA has worked closely with the General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR) to resume essential primary health care and disease prevention in Yarmouk.

As of 23 September, a mobile health clinic – one of the Agency’s 25 primary health-care facilities across Syria - is visiting the camp every Wednesday to provide services from the yard of one of the destroyed UNRWA schools.

UNRWA also offers ERW risk-awareness and transportation for 143 UNRWA students who attend four UNRWA schools outside the camp.

Before the beginning of the conflict in March 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it had a symbolic value for the Palestinian diaspora.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods. In January 2014, UNRWA had access to Yarmouk and conducted direct distribution to besieged Palestine refugees. The Agency continued distribution until April 2015, when armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry



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out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighbouring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Later in 2015, UNRWA managed to access the remaining 6,000 Palestine refugees in Yarmouk and YBB through cross-border missions to Yalda and continued until May 2016 when access was blocked. Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp left in ruins.

Due to the Agency's unprecedented financial crisis, critical health-care services like those extended to the returned Palestine refugees in Yarmouk are now in jeopardy, putting Palestine refugees at risk.

Along similar lines, residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said water has been repeatedly cut off in the area due to breakdowns in the main water pumps as a result of the power blackout.

The residents said power has been operative for one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening, resulting in food spoilage.

Eleven years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.



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The reluctance maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned bodies regarding their cries for help has made the situation far worse.

As a result, scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage has been inflicted on the camp.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in T'seil town, in the southern Syrian province of Daraa, continue to launch cries for help over the exacerbated humanitarian condition and the absence of healthcare services.

No clinics are operative in the area. Some two years ago, the local hospital had been evacuated. Emergency cases seek treatment at the government hospital in Deraa city, located over 30 kilometers away from the town.

Palestinian families continue to call on all concerned parties, including UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization, to rally around them and work on rehabilitating vital services in the area.

The situation has been made worse by the coronavirus outbreak across the war-torn country.

Palestinian families came to T'seil town following the 1948 catastrophe, after they were forced out of their homes in Palestine by Zionist militias.

Located some 30 kilometers north of Daraa city center, T'seil has been home to hundreds of Palestinian families.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Rashid Ashour has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

He was arrested on March 18, 2013 near the Lebanese-Syrian borders and transferred to Palestine Branch in Damascus.



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AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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).