



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 Girls in/from Syria Challenge War-Related Trauma"

- Hundreds of Palestinian Refugees Facing Squalid Conditions on Greek Island
- Stray Dogs Sway Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- India Provides US\$ 1 Million to UNRWA for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

Ten years into the Syrian conflict, the Palestinian refugee community continues to be among the most affected groups in the war-torn country. Yet, hundreds of success stories have emerged from the heart of darkness.

On the International Day of the Girl, AGPS confirms that scores of Palestinian refugee girls in/from Syria have defied the war-inflicted trauma and left their own creative stamps.

The list includes Palestinian girls Jana Ali Yousef, from Harasta, and Israa Mohamed AlRefai, from Yarmouk Camp, who were honored by the Syrian Presidency after they got full marks (3100/3100) as part of their 9th grade exams.

Naya Mohamed Saleh Abdul Al also got the highest score in Aleppo and Syria (3100).

Palestinian sisters Hana and Rana Ahmed Zaki Khayrat, from AlAyedeen refugee camp, in Hama, got the highest scores in Hama city. Their father died under torture in Syrian jails.

A number of displaced Palestinian students who have been taking shelter in poorly-equipped tents north of Syria have also achieved outstanding academic results.

Third year secondary school student Amal Issa, displaced from Yarmouk Camp, received a score of 1,160 out of 1,200 marks during the first semester of the 2019-20 academic year.



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At the same time, Palestinian student from Syria Jala Khaled AlKhatib achieved outstanding results as part of the 2019 basic education exams held at Beit Jala private school, in Siblin, in AlKharroub region, south of Lebanon. She got the first rank at the school and the 24th in Lebanon.

15-year-old Jala was born and raised in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus. She headed for Lebanon with her family in 2013, fleeing war-torn Syria.

Al Nahda International School in Istanbul also honored the Palestinian girl from Syria Joudi Ahmad AlKurdi, displaced from Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, for the outstanding results she has achieved as part of preparatory school exams (3rd grade) in Istanbul.

Palestinian student from Syria Ines Kilani achieved the highest score as part of Secondary school exams (scientific branch) at Jensen Gymnasium Sändra School in the Swedish capital city—Stockholm. She got full marks in all of her school exams.

Palestinian refugee from Syria Rama Rashid Ziyad Taha has passed her 2nd year university examination with honors at Alberta University in Canada, where she has been studying biomedical science.

In 2018, Rama received a university scholarship after she earned a high score (98.9) in her baccalaureate exams in Dubai.



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The conflict in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children and young men/women in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian refugees from Syria.

Along similar lines, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp have raised concerns over their children's safety as packs of stray dogs have been spotted in and around the camp.

The refugees appealed to the concerned authorities and NGOs to take urgent action over the spread of feral dogs in the camp, a phenomenon that has seen the day after dozens of civilians were forced out of their homes due to the deadly shelling and deported to northern Syria.

Palestinian families seeking shelter in Khan Eshieh Camp have been facing dire socio-economic conditions in the poverty-stricken area. Chronic power and water blackouts along with the acute dearth in gas and fuel supplies have made the situation far more alarming.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.



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Survival for the majority of Palestinian families in war-stricken Syria has largely hinged on relief assistance. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria sheltered in the new Moria camp, pitched on the Greek island of Mytilene, continue to sound distress signals over the exacerbated humanitarian condition they have been subjected to.

In statements emailed to AGPS, the refugees said they have been enduring medical neglect and poor hygiene, along with the lack of relief assistance and the propagation of poisonous reptiles in the makeshift tents they have been locked up in.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian families have expressed concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has overwhelmed the southeastern European country.

Over recent years, Greek refugee camps have reportedly been running at three times their capacity. Overpopulated refugee camps cause a shortage of resources, not least healthcare. Often mental health issues are overlooked, despite many refugees having experienced severe trauma.

In another development, the Government of India on Wednesday contributed US\$ 1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in support of the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services for Palestine refugees.



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UNRWA said in a statement that the contribution was presented by Representative of India to State of Palestine Sunil Kumar.

Reiterating the Government of India's continued support for UNRWA services, Representative of India Sunil Kumar stated: “On behalf of the Government of India, I would like to express my appreciation for the remarkable efforts carried out by UNRWA. India shall continue supporting the Agency’s activities in providing vital services and necessary humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees.”

Sami Mshasha, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of External Relations and Communication and Director of Communication of UNRWA, said: “This timely contribution in support of Palestine refugees is crucial and much appreciated. On behalf of UNRWA, I would like to thank the Government of India for its continued funding to the Agency and its backing of Palestine refugees across the Middle East.”

During the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA held on 23 June 2020, Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan announced that India will contribute US\$ 10 million to UNRWA over the next two years.

It is worth noting that India has increased its annual financial contribution to UNRWA from US\$ 1.25 million in 2017 to US\$ 5 million in 2018 and 2019, and in May 2020, India contributed US\$ 2 million, which brought its total contribution for 2020 to US\$ 3 million.



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UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.