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## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطيني سورية تدعوكم للمشاركة

فــي مـلء استبيـان حـول

"إعادة إعمار مخيم اليرموك"





"AGPS Launches Opinion Poll about Yarmouk Camp"

- Palestine Refugees Call for Increasing UN Aid
- Residents of AlNeirab Camp Denounce Manipulation Gas Distribution
- Palestinian Refugees Level Heavy Criticism at Damascus Authorities over Poor Services
- Palestinian Refugee Girl Honored by Berlin School



## **Latest Developments**

AGPS has called on Palestinian refugees to fill out an opinion poll about the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp.

The answers will serve as references for future studies about the situation in Yarmouk Camp.

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.

On January 07, 2020, Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen AlSaman, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, called on Palestinian refugees to file lawsuits in order to return to their homes and retrieve their properties in Yarmouk.

Such calls come in response to the reluctance maintained by local authorities in Damascus regarding the residents' ongoing appeals to rehabilitate infrastructure and allow displaced civilians to safely return to the camp.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the



government troops and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.

Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

In another development, Palestinian refugees in Syria have called on UNRWA to increase humanitarian aid and cash grants and to deliver them to the concerned refugees on a monthly rather than a trimestrial basis.

UNRWA provides assistance to over 438,000 registered Palestinian refugees in Syria. Some 13,500 others remain in hard-to-reach or inaccessible zones in northern Syria.

The assistance includes cash and in-kind items. Throughout the conflict, the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in/from Syria have been struggling for survival.

The sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and PRS lack of access to the local labor market have made UNRWA's assistance quite insufficient, especially for vulnerable families, families with members with special needs, and female-headed households.



The price leap has overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking leap from previous years.

Meanwhile, displaced Palestinian families in AlNeirab Camp, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, said they have been cheated by gas suppliers who have been providing them with cylinders that run out of gas in a week.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.



Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Along similar lines, activists in Yarmouk Camp lashed out at Damascus Governorate which they said continues to turn its back on the residents' appeals for vital services.

The residents said local authorities have not provided them with much-needed services, except for rubble clearance.

They called on the Governorate to work on reconstructing destroyed facilities and rehabilitating infrastructure.

In the meantime, Lynar Grun Schule in Berlin honored the Palestinian schoolgirl Farah Mootaz Khalaf who earned the highest score in her 4<sup>th</sup> grade exams.

Farah's family fled Syria's Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees some six years ago. They reached Germany via a Europe-bound migrant boat in 2015.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional



and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.