



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 Displacement Camp Denounce Poor Education Services"

- Palestinian Refugee Dies of Coronavirus in Aleppo
- Water Network Repair Works Ongoing in Handarat Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugees Struggling for Survival on Chios Island
- 2 Palestinian Brothers Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jails since 2012

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in AlHusainiya camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, continue to speak out the inadequate educational services and poor-quality output delivered to their children at local schools.

AGPS kept record of a sharp nosedive in access to education for Palestinians sheltered in AlHusainiya refugee camp.

A number of local schools face overcrowding, with over 50 students often crammed in a single classroom.

Schoolchildren have also been subjected to bullying and psycho-physical violence by a number of teaching staff.

At times, students are compelled to walk for kilometers to sit for exams.

UNRWA installations in the camp include two double-shift schools and one afternoon-shift school in a government school.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Several UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28



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schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria. Other education facilities have been turned into prisons or field hospitals, imperiling Palestinians' academic careers.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Ahmad Fayez Nawna died of coronavirus in Syria.

Ahmad, a resident of the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, is the 14th coronavirus victim among the Palestinians of Syria.

Recently, a state of panic has overwhelmed the Palestinian refugee community taking shelter in war-torn Syria following reports of increased coronavirus cases in and around Damascus.

AGPS continues to urge UNRWA and the Syrian Health Ministry to provide the Palestinian refugee community in the war-ravaged country with hygiene kit and relief items in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

AGPS also stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with medicines, detergents, and disinfectants in order to help the displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

AGPS is deeply concerned that the lack of transparency maintained by the Syrian government regarding the pandemic will result in a catastrophic situation in displacement camps, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.



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AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Meanwhile, works have been in progress to repair water pumps in Handarat camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

Local residents told AGPS that equipment, including power generators, has been installed as part of underway efforts to rehabilitate the infrastructure.

Water pumps feeding the main tank will be reportedly operative in the next few days.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat 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.



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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.

UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

Ein El Tal camp was once home to around 7,000 residents. Around three hundred families moved to newly constructed houses in Ein El-Tal from Neirab camp under a 2003 project to reduce overcrowding in Neirab.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.



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In the meantime, AGPS has documented an increase in the number of Palestinian refugees seeking shelter in Vial camp, set up on the Greek island of Chios, where they have been struggling with dire conditions.

The number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in the camp has been estimated at 460, down from 160 a couple of months earlier.

Palestinian refugees said they have failed to secure potable water and food items in the camp.

Migrant camps in Greece have been under quarantine in recent weeks, with authorities trying to keep residents apart from locals.

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

Along similar lines, Palestinian brothers Waseem and Anas Mahmoud Muhahi have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since October 2012. Both were kidnapped from Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees south of Damascus. Their condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.



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AGPS kept record of dozens of cases of internment and fatal torture of members of same family in Syrian government prisons.

AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

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

Over 1,770 Palestinian refugees have also been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

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).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.