



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

16-03-2022

No. 3530

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in/from Syria Suffer War-Related Trauma"

- Residents of AlHusainiya Camp Denounce Poor-Quality Bread
- Due to Supply Dearth, UNRWA in Syria Replaces Food Items
- Refugees Slam Denmark over Double-Standards in Migration Policy

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Latest Developments

The eleven-year warfare rocking the Syrian territories has forced Palestinian refugees, most notably children and the elderly, to endure terrible experiences and witness nightmarish scenes that far exceed one's capacity to get to grips with them.

With scenes of destruction, bloodshed, displacement, and death occurring around the clock, Palestinian refugees have gone traumatized and are now in need of psychological support.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian refugees, particularly children, have been diagnosed after they lost their homes, have had their parents/relatives killed in the war, underwent limb amputation, and witnessed daily scenes of death, dispossession, and destruction.

11 years into the conflict, Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country continue to suffer multiple hardships. A number of PRS committed suicide due to the psychological distress caused by years of relentless bombardment and protracted displacement.

Three conscripts at the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime, fatally shot themselves.

On December 19, 2013, 18-year-old Mazen AlAsli, a resident of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, killed himself due to the blockade and undernourishment.



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A number of suicide attempts have also been recorded among Palestinian refugees who fled Syria to Lebanon, where they have been facing squalid humanitarian conditions.

Another former resident of Yarmouk Camp dropped from a fourth-floor balcony in Turkey in an apparent suicide attempt. The refugee, who has gone hemiplegic, said he failed to secure much-needed medical treatment to his disabled brother.

There exists no accurate data about the number of suicide attempts among the Palestinians of Syria. Such a phenomenon remains underreported for several reasons, most notable among which are fears of retaliation, distrust in law enforcement, and the absence of official documentation drives.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian refugees, including women and children, in embattled Syria and to provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.

In another development, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have sounded distress signals over the poor quality of bread packs sold in the area.

Hundreds of civilians continue to line up on a quasi-daily basis in long queues outside local bakeries for up to four hours in the hunt for a bundle of bread loafs to feed their starved families. Two bakeries have gone out of operation in the area.



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A number of residents told AGPS that plastic strips have been spotted inside bread loafs and urged the Syrian government to control bread sales and production in the area.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said it will replace lentils with beans due to delays in lentils supply.

UNRWA said that, in coordination with the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), it will be distributing food baskets Palestinian refugee families in Syria who have not received food aid since the start of 2022.

Sometime earlier, UNRWA said it started distributing food aid items as of December 2022.

UNRWA has been active in Syria since it started its field operations in 1950. Since the start of the conflict in 2011, UNRWA has stepped up its operations to ensure the needs of Palestine refugees in the country are met. The Agency is the main provider of humanitarian assistance, protection and basic services to 438,000 Palestine refugees who remain in the country, and who have been among those worst affected by the crisis.

In the meantime, Denmark has received accusations of double standards vis-à-vis migrants and asylum seekers. As the war in Ukraine triggers a mass exodus of refugees, countries have opened their doors wide to Ukrainians, offering a warm welcome that has historically been denied to other populations fleeing conflicts across the globe, particularly Palestinian refugees from Syria.



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That contrast became more stark in recent weeks, when European governments have been accused of shunning desperate asylum seekers from Syria, even as they strive to be hospitable to asylum seekers escaping violence in Ukraine. European leaders have also described Ukrainian refugees as less of a threat and more deserving of help than others.

Denmark, which has some of the toughest anti-immigration legislation in Europe, passed a law that offers Ukrainian refugees expedited residency and work permits, giving them access to the education and health care systems. The law came as Syrian and Palestinian asylum seekers have been languishing for months in deportation centers in Denmark, after the country started revoking their residency permits in 2019.

In 2016, as many refugees fled conflicts in the Middle East and Africa to Europe, Denmark passed a law requiring newly arrived asylum seekers to hand over valuables, including jewelry and gold, to help pay for their stay in the country. Ukrainian refugees are exempt from that law.

The Danish government has also made an agreement with local authorities aimed at integrating asylum seekers into Danish communities within four days of their being granted a temporary residency permit.

“It’s going to go very fast. Within a couple of weeks many Danes will have a new colleague, a new neighbor or a new classmate,” Mattias Tesfaye, Denmark’s immigration minister, said on Danish television.



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The welcome given to Ukrainian refugees in countries like Greece, Denmark, Poland and Hungary, which have been openly hostile to refugees in the past, is a striking turnaround from the European refugee crisis in 2015 when an influx of more than one million refugees and migrants escaping war and conflict in the Middle East and Africa fanned an anti-immigrant backlash in Europe.