

17-03-2020

No. 2702

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**مجموعة العمل** من أجل فلسطينيي سـورية **Action Group** For Palestinians of Syria

"2,700 Reports Documenting Situation of Palestinians of Syria Issued by AGPS"

- UNRWA: \$270 Million Needed to Uphold Vital Services for Palestine Refugees in Syria
- Relief Items Handed Over to Displaced Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon



## **Latest Developments**

AGPS has released over 2,700 daily reports documenting the situation of Palestinian refugees across war-torn Syria.

The reports are available on the group's website both in English and Arabic: www.actionpal.org.uk.

Other material, including videos, live snapshots, statistics on the number of casualties and detainees, news articles, and press releases also figure on the website.

AGPS material provides thorough data on the daily violations, death toll, and number of detainees in war-torn Syria. It also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in refugee camps across and outside of the embattled Syrian territories.



The provided data is the by-product of joint efforts made by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers, and researchers.

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS team does its best to uphold the finest standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footages, and sworn



affidavits are taken directly from the fighting scene across a myriad of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS role as a human rights overseer.

In another development, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 funding appeal that a sum totaling US\$ 270 million is needed to carry out its program for the Syria Regional Crisis, in view of the current deteriorating economic and financial situation in the country.

The Agency has said that Palestine refugees in Syria rely on UNRWA to provide aid which often is literally life-saving. The financial crisis that is affecting everyone in the country this year makes their reliance on the Agency greater. Supporting UNRWA is, therefore, fundamental to sustaining a dignified existence for the Palestine refugee community.

The funds sought to cover the Syria appeal will provide vital assistance to some 438,000 Palestine refugees affected by the conflict inside Syria, and to some 28,000 who are displaced to Lebanon and 17,000 currently in Jordan, and who continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs.

Last month, Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria Amanya Michael-Ebye said: "The conflict in Syria has affected everyone, but the case of Palestine refugees is particularly compelling, with 40% of them remaining in prolonged displacement. We often hear that the only normality for Palestine refugees inside Syria, and those displaced to Jordan and Lebanon since the conflict erupted, is their access to



UNRWA services, such as schools, health care and other forms of assistance."

The presentation of the Agency's 2020 priorities and financial requirements comes in the wake of the recent extension by the United Nations General Assembly, of the UNRWA mandate for another three years until June 2023, confirming the trust that the international community places in the Agency and its role in protecting and assisting millions of Palestine refugees in the region.

On 31 January 2020, the Acting Commissioner-General, Christian Saunders, called in Geneva during the launching of 2020 Budget Appeal for a minimum of US\$ 1.4 billion to fund the Agency's essential services and assistance, including life-saving humanitarian aid and priority projects, for 5.6 million registered Palestine refugees across the Middle East for the year 2020.



UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human



development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

Meanwhile, the Committee of Displaced Palestinians from Syria in Beirut distributed 120 vegetable rations in Burj AlBarajneh refugee camp.

A number of activists also handed over bread to vulnerable Palestinian families from Syria in Sidon's Ein AlHilweh refugee camp and in AlBekaa region. The move is backed by Palestinian refugees in Europe.

In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country. The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families).

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.