



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



"Despite Hardship, Palestinian Refugee Students in Northern Syria Achieve Excellent Results"

- Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Denounce Absence of Humanitarian Assistance
- Committee of Displaced Palestinians Meets with UNRWA Director in Sidon
- Palestinian Refugees Look Out for New Decisions as Greece Sets Up New Asylum Ministry

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Latest Developments

A number of displaced Palestinian students who have been taking shelter in poorly-equipped tents north of Syria have achieved outstanding academic results, despite the traumatic effects of the Syrian warfare and displacement.

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.

Primary school students Aya Falah (3rd grade) and Kinan Falah (4th grade), also displaced from Yarmouk Camp, garnered high exam scores at Omar Ibn AlKhattab School, in I'zaz.

Displaced Palestinian families north of Syria continue to sound the alarm over their children's lack of access to education as a result of the enforced deportation they have been subjected to.



They said even the private school established in the area is made up of poorly equipped tents that are not fit to study in and risk to fall into pieces in the winter season. Neither professional training staff nor proper furniture are available at the school. Students often find



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no other choice than to sit on the floor in order to attend lectures and jot down notes.

The families, who got displaced from Khan Eshieh and Yarmouk refugee camps, urged UNRWA to take its responsibility as regards the crisis and make urgent steps to smooth their children's access to education premises.

Along similar lines, displaced Palestinian families from Syria in AlMiya wa Miya camp, in Lebanon's southern city of Sidon, continue to launch distress signals over the exacerbated humanitarian condition. High rates of unemployment and poverty along with the absence of humanitarian assistance have made life unbearable in the camp.

Speaking with AGPS, a Palestinian girl taking refuge in the camp said no relief items have been distributed in the isolated camp for months.



Displaced Palestinian families in Lebanon refugee camps have been struggling for survival due to the cold weather and freezing temperatures.



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Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Committee of Displaced Families met on Wednesday, January 15, with the head of UNRWA office in Sidon, Ibrahim AlKhatib.

The committee sounded the alarm over the squalid economic conditions and frail legal status endured by Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



The delegates urged UNRWA to find practical solutions to the plight of Palestinian refugees in the camp and to disburse cash aids for



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Palestinian children. They further called on the agency to shell out rental and food allowances for the cash-stripped refugees.

The committee also appealed to UNRWA to work on securing the identity and travel documents of Palestinian refugees in order to smooth their movement across the country.

UNRWA's AlKhatib vowed to take all necessary steps in order to transmit the refugees' voices, saying UNRWA has always been standing by the side of Palestine refugees.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees have voiced eagerness for positive moves regarding their demands for humanitarian asylum after the center-right Greek government announced on Wednesday its decision to establish a separate ministry of migration affairs.

The decision comes as the country struggles to cope with a high number of arrivals of migrants and refugees from neighboring Turkey, international news portals have reported.

Notis Mitarakis has been appointed migration and asylum minister, while Giorgos Koumoutsakos has been appointed alternate minister, according to a statement from a government spokesperson.

"The government, from the first moment, followed a different policy on the refugee-migration issue. With a comprehensive plan based on four axes: guarding the borders, speeding up asylum procedures, increased returns and closed pre-departure centers," Stelios Petsas announced.



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Petsas said the new ministry will ensure the decongestion of the islands which carry the greatest burden in receiving refugees and migrants.

Mitarakis has until now served as deputy minister of labor and social affairs, while Koumoutsakos has been the alternate minister for immigration policy.

Nearly 75,000 migrants and refugees arrived in Greece last year, a 50% increase from the annual total in 2018, according to data from the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR.

Scores of Palestinian refugees from Syria have disembarked in Greece over recent years, fleeing the conflict, persecution, and economic hardship.