

19-03-2022

No. 3533

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria Displacement Camps Send Open Letter to Political Leadership"

- UNRWA: 438,000 Palestinian Refugees Remain in Syria
- Syria Lifts Coronavirus-Related Travel Restrictions
- Swedish Gov't to Amend Child Care Law



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in northern Syria displacement camps have sent an open letter to the Palestine Liberation organization, the Palestinian embassy, political factions, and UNRWA to take up their responsibilities vis-à-vis the tragic situation they have been enduring in substandard camps established in the area.

In the letter, the displaced families said the humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by poverty, unemployment, and the absence of relief assistance.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, among other camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of coronavirus add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.



Along similar lines, eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, some 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in the war-torn country, where they have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UNRWA data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond;

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Interior Ministry issued on March 17 a circular announcing its decision to lift all travel restrictions for Syrians and non-Syrians imposed as part of its anti-coronavirus protocol.

Travel and movement are to be regulated according to laws and regulations implemented before the pandemic outbreak.

The move facilitates access out of and into Syria through border crossings. A PCR test of less than 96 hours or a vaccine certification are required.

On March 20, 2020, the Syrian Ministry of Interior imposed an entry ban on Arab and non-Arab visitors as part of its anti-coronavirus measures.



In the meantime, Sweden has submitted a draft law for the care of young persons by the social care services.

The draft law puts forth amendments on laws related to Swedish care of children and young persons. The so-called "lilla hjartat" (little heart) amendments were issued following the death of a child called Ezmerlada, who died after she was returned to her parents.

The Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Lena Hallengren, said the new five amendments give social services the power to enhance the family's situation before the child is returned to his/her parents and to act to protect children.

The five amendments are slated to enter into force in early July following the consent of the parliament. Compulsory care will only be ended after social services make sure the parents' situation has improved.

In case a decision is made to return the child to his/her family, a municipality's social affairs committee inspects the child's situation for six months. The parents are also required to undergo a drug consumption test.

A decision to take a child away from their families, according to the Swedish Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act, LVU, must always be based on a significant risk of harm to the child's health or development. It can either be the situation in the family home or the child's or young person's own behaviour that may be deemed harmful or dangerous. Violence or some other form of



abuse by the family is one example, another that the child exposes itself to danger or commits crimes. A prerequisite is that it can be assumed – or that the social services know – that the parents and the child don't agree to the care needed.