

الخاص بأوضاع اللجئين الفلسطينيينفي سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Following Death of Palestine Refugee Child in Aleppo, UNRWA Calls For Clearing Explosive War Remnants

- Veteran Palestinian-Syrian Actor Bassam Lotfy Dies at 82
- Activists Warn of Property Loss in AlNeirab Refugee Camp
- Water Crisis Ongoing in Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp

Daily report on the situation of Palestinians refugees in Syria

Latest Developments

A ten-year-old Palestine refugee boy tragically lost his life when an explosive remnant of War (ERW) he was tampering with exploded on 16 August in the Masaken Hanano neighbourhood of Aleppo, in the north of Syria.

Several similar tragic ERW incidents have killed or heavily impacted Palestine refugee children in Syria over the last year. Last March, a 17-year-old Palestine refugee also lost his life to an ERW in the old city of Aleppo. In August 2021, seven Palestine refugee boys between the ages of 10 and 14 were playing in the heavily damaged Ein el Tal Camp in Aleppo, when a nearby ERW exploded, injuring them all and killing one of them. A few weeks ago, an UNRWA school student was killed by an ERW in Dera'a.

Recreational activities are scarce for children in Syria, and Palestine refugee children who were in contact with ERW had often ventured into contaminated areas to play. Children are particularly vulnerable to these deadly explosions as they often mistake ERW or unexploded ordnance for toys, unaware of the risks.

ERW remain a source of danger for many people in Syria, particularly in areas that witnessed heavy fighting during the conflict.

UNRWA reiterated the need to mark, clear, remove and destroy ERW in areas where people are returning.

UNRWA said humanitarian demining in contaminated areas must be a priority, adding that the Agency continues to prioritize ERW awareness raising in all its schools and within communities, particularly also amongst Palestine refugees who live in or voluntarily return to the heavily affected Ein el Tal, Yarmouk and Dera'a camps.

In another development, veteran Syrian-Palestinian actor Bassam Lotfy, best known as the "Dean of Syrian Drama", passed away on Friday at the age of 82, Syrian media reported.

The Syndicate of Syrian Artists has mourned the death of Lotfy a day after another Syrian actress Antoinette Najiba died aged 91.



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Born in the Palestinian city of Tulkarem on January 1, 1940, the Palestinian actor received his primary education in Tulkarem. He devoted himself to working in Syrian television dramas, and among his most important series are: The Diaries of a General Manager, A Hero from This Time, and The Falcon of Quraysh.

Lotfy was one of the founders and leaders of Syrian drama, and Artists Syndicate, and the holder of membership No. (1).

He played many acting roles in theatre, radio, television and cinema, and participated in "The Stranger" play, the first dramatic work shown on television in 1960.

Meanwhile, activists have called on the residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

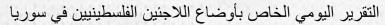
The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and property, taking profit from the high poverty rates and loss of livelihoods in the area.

Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlNeirab Camp continue to sound distress signals over the high rates of unemployment, water and power outages, along with the absence of healthcare services and vital medicines.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.





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In the meantime, Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, said water has been cut off across residential neighborhoods for several days.

Water wells have also gone inoperative due to the chronic power blackout.

An AGPS reporter said most of the families sheltered in the camp are cash-stripped and cannot afford to buy drinking water from privately-owned tanks.

Palestinian families continue to appeal to UNRWA and the concerned authorities to take urgent action regarding the alarming humanitarian condition in the camp.