



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

19-09-2020

No. 2888

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugee Camp of AlNeirab Coronavirus Free"

- Displaced Palestinian Families in Yarmouk Camp Grappling with Dire Conditions
- Palestinians from Syria in AlMiya wa Miya Camp Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Action
- Palestinian Refugee Ahmad Abu Tawq Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 7th Year
- EU Chief Vows to Replace Dublin Rule for Asylum Seekers

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest developments

The Health Directorate in AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo said no active coronavirus cases are spotted in the camp.

Dr KHaled Abu Ali, director of the Health Department at the local health center, said all coronavirus cases have recovered.

Over the past few days, three instructors at Akka School, run by UNRWA, have tested negative for the virus.

Meanwhile, nearly 200 families taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp have been grappling with squalid humanitarian conditions.

Human rights activists have appealed to the Palestinian and international NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian families who remained in Yarmouk refugee camp.

The activists stressed the need to secure bread, drinking water, and vital food items to the residents, in light of the movement restrictions slapped across the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Activists have warned that civilian property has also been subjected to theft and homes to burglary in the government-held camp. Flocks of vehicles laden with belongings stolen from abandoned buildings in the camp are spotted on a quasi-daily basis.



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

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

Unofficial statistics indicate that some 200 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

In the meantime, a number of Palestinian families from Syria taking shelter in AlMiya wa Miya camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, have been struggling with dire conditions.



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

The families continue to launch distress signals over their 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.

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.

Along similar lines, Palestinian young man Ahmad Abu Tawq, born in 1990, has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons since September 4, 2013.



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

Ahmad was kidnapped by pro-government forces from AlRaml Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Latakia. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.



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

In another development, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the Dublin Regulation will be replaced with a new migration plan, to be revealed next week.

Under the current rules, the EU country an asylum seeker first enters is responsible for their claim, meaning states such as Italy and Greece take a much larger share.

EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said in a speech to the European Parliament this week that proposed new migration reforms would replace the so-called "Dublin Regulation." The regulation determines which country is responsible for an asylum seeker's application.

"I can announce that we will abolish the Dublin Regulation and we will replace it with a new European migration governance system. It will have common structures on asylum and return and it will have a new strong solidarity mechanism," von der Leyen said in Brussels.

She added that there would be a debate on the matter, and that the German presidency was also pushing for results on the issue of migration.

She also announced on Twitter that she would introduce a "New Pact on Migration" next week.

The far-right Identity and Democracy group in the European Parliament, as well as members of the European Conservatives and Reformists group, criticized von der Leyen's remarks and plans.



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

Jörg Meuthen, a member of the EU Parliament from Germany's far-right AfD party, said in Parliament that "the EU is not a state and Mrs. von der Leyen is not a head of state, no matter how much she wishes she was."

"The launch of the new pact on migration next week has impressed me because it underscores that search and rescue operations at sea are not open to discussion and are instead an obligation for the European Union. This is a rather clear message for Italy," European Affairs Minister Vincenzo Amendola said.

"We have been asking for this for years. So if Italy ceases to be Europe's refugee camp and the only point for migrant boats to disembark their passengers, I will be pleased," opposition politician and far-right party League leader Matteo Salvini said.

The Dublin Regulation has long been criticized by politicians from EU border states and refugee advocates. Southern EU border states such as Italy and Greece have complained that it has forced them to process the bulk of asylum claims while northern and non-border EU states are responsible for far fewer claims.

Attempts to reform 'Dublin' and introduce an EU-wide refugee redistribution mechanism have thus far failed; many eastern European states such as Poland and Hungary do not want to take in any asylum seekers from other EU states.