



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS Calls for Urgent Int'l Action to End Suffering of Palestinians of Syria"

- Palestinian Refugees Continue to Achieve Success Stories Worldwide
- Palestinian Refugee Family in Greece Appeals for Urgent Treatment of Cancer-Stricken Child
- Power Crisis ongoing in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Husain Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

On the International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD), annually observed by the United Nations on December 20, AGPS called on the international community, particularly UNRWA, to take further action in order to provide the Palestinians of Syria with the physical and legal protection they quite urgently need at such a critical time.

The International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD), observed on December 20, is an international annual unity day of the United Nations and its member states introduced by the general assembly during the 2005 World Summit. It was established on December 22, 2005 by resolution 60/209.

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Jordan, among other destinations, continue to launch cries for help over the precarious legal status and lack of protection they have been subjected to. Most of them have been grappling with deportation concerns and living in a perpetual fear over their families' safety due to the security mayhem rocking the region.

Palestinians from Syria have also been denied humanitarian asylum in several destinations, including Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and others, which represents a flagrant violation of international human rights law.

Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence



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within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”

AGPS also urges the Palestinian Authority and its diplomatic missions to work on lifting movement sanctions on Palestinian refugees in host countries, as decreed by international humanitarian law.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.

UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Meanwhile, hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots



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wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

Palestinian refugee Nowras Rahhal has made cutting-edge work on a COVID-19 vaccine, challenging the traumatic impact of his statelessness and the psychological scars of the Syria war.

Scientist Rahhal, who moved to Germany two years ago from Syria's war-shattered capital Damascus, is stateless - meaning no country recognizes him as a citizen.

Rahhal, 27, has just finished working with a team at one of the Max Planck institutes on developing a system allowing a COVID-19 vaccine to be applied to the skin, rather than injected into muscle. The technique - targeting specialist immune cells in the skin that can trigger an immune reaction in the body - would require a far smaller dose per person, a big advantage when inoculating large populations.

Before arriving in Germany, Rahhal spent years studying to the sound of bombings and artillery fire, using his phone torch to read when the electricity cut out at his Damascus home. But Rahhal's



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academic achievements are remarkable for another reason - stateless people often struggle to access education.

At the same time, Palestinian journalist Bisan Zarzar, who fled war-torn Syria to the Netherlands some six years ago, has achieved an outstanding career in the Western European country.

Bisan worked with “Holland Now” radio program and successfully broadcasted her series “Pursue your higher studies with Bisan”.

She started her academic career as a student at the Modern Middle East Studies department at Leiden University. She currently works as a correspondent with Arab news outlets. She is active on social media and has a Youtube channel.

She has recently embarked on a podcast project entitled “Any idea?” to provide pieces of news about the Arab community in The Netherlands.

Palestinian refugee Ahmad Fayez Diab, raised in Syria’s Khan Eshieh camp, also earned the highest score at the Economics and Sales Department at Linz University. He was honored by the Governor of Upper Austria, Thomas Stelzer, during a ceremony held in the city.

Ahmed’s family was displaced from Tabariya village, in Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1948, to Khan Eshieh camp, in Syria’s Rif Dimashq province. He fled the war-torn country to Austria in 2014.



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In the meantime, a displaced Palestinian family from Syria in Greece has appealed to the Greek authorities and international humanitarian organizations to work on securing urgent treatment for their six-year-old daughter, diagnosed with bone cancer.

The family said their child's health condition has remarkably deteriorated as they cannot afford to buy medicines at a monthly budget of 700 Euros.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Greek coast guards.

More than 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Greece, where they live in filthy and overcrowded temporary camps, some for months or years.

Along similar lines, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to denounce the chronic power blackouts rocking the area, saying power has been cut across a number of residential neighborhoods for almost 12 hours daily.

Civilians slammed the apathy maintained by the concerned authorities as regards their appeals for urgent action.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis,



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price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Abdul Salam Hussain has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the 7th consecutive year.

The refugee was arrested by Syrian security forces on January 26, 2013. He was born in 1963 and raised in Aldhiabiya town, in Rif Dimashq.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, including 110 women and girls.

A few years ago, horrific photos showing thousands of people who were tortured to death in Syrian government penitentiaries were leaked by a military police photographer, codenamed Caesar.