



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



### "UN Palestine Refugee Agency Condemns Killing of Staff Member in Syria"

- Power Crisis Ongoing in Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- UNRWA Launches COVID-19 US\$14 Million Flash Appeal for Palestine Refugees
- Food Items Delivered to Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Lebanon

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## Latest Developments

UNRWA has condemned the killing of one of its staff members, Ali Husein Mohammad, following an outbreak of armed violence in Jillin, in rural Daraa, south of Syria.

“The thoughts and condolences of UNRWA staff are with Mohammad’s family in this time of profound grief”, said UNRWA in a statement released earlier this week.

Born in 1977, Mohammad had served with UNRWA since September 2013 as a science teacher. He is survived by a widow and four children.

“UNRWA provides critical services to the Palestine refugees in Jillin and has continued to provide assistance to Palestine refugees throughout Syria thanks to the dedication of staff like Mohammad. His tragic death, which brings to 19 the total number of UNRWA staff who lost their lives in the conflict is a reminder of the huge risks that humanitarian workers face daily”, UNRWA’s statement further read.





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UNRWA has appealed to all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly in relation to the protection of civilians and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks and attacks against civilians and civilian objects.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

In another development, residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the ongoing electricity blackouts across residential alleyways and buildings.

The residents urged UNRWA and the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures in order to rehabilitate the power network and carry out the required maintenance works.







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Civilians have also been deprived of life-saving healthcare services in the camp due to the absence of specialized medics, night-shift pharmacies, and equipped clinics.

The residents continue to call on the government institutions and UNRWA to urgently step in and work out the crises they have been subjected to at the soonest time possible.

Along similar lines, residents of AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to raise concerns over their children's safety as packs of stray dogs are spotted daily in and around the camp.

Palestinian refugees have appealed to the concerned authorities and NGOs to take urgent action over the spread of feral dogs in the camp and to work out the chronic power outages in the area.

Civilians also denounced the health hazards inflicted by the trash mounds piled up across residential alleyways, resulting in bed smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases. Fears over a potential outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and a swift propagation of the virus among the residents have also been growing.

All the way through the nine-year Syrian conflict, Palestinians taking refuge in AlHusainiya camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

Offensives launched on AlHusainiya Camp using MIG warplanes led to the death of dozens of civilians and to massive material destruction. Bloody shootouts between the opposition outfits and



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the Syrian government forces culminated in the latter's takeover of the camp on October 9, 2013.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said it urgently needs US\$ 14 million to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak over an initial three-month period.

The Flash Appeal that the Agency launched last Tuesday outlines the immediate priorities and financial requirements for health and other services related to the pandemic in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.



“Overcrowded living conditions, physical and mental stress and years of protracted conflict all make vulnerable population of over 5.6 million Palestine refugees particularly susceptible to the ongoing threats of COVID-19,” said UNRWA Acting Commissioner-General Christian Saunders. “All of the Agency’s five fields’ host countries and authorities have announced a series of robust measures to cope with the spread of COVID-19, which UNRWA will follow and factor into its operations.”



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UNRWA said that all of its schools and other educational institutions across the five fields are temporarily closed; yet, all of UNRWA's health clinics remain fully operational and continue to provide essential primary health services, which today are more crucial than ever, to contain and address the spread of the ongoing pandemic.

“Countless individuals and every government are involved in the massive global efforts to contain the spread and mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and UNRWA, our staff and the Palestine refugee community we serve are no different,” said Saunders. “I humbly call on donors, whether governments, foundations or individuals to help UNRWA face what could become a disaster of unconscionable proportions, in places like Gaza and Syria.”

“COVID-19 has illustrated that no population is exempt and for a densely populated area like Gaza, already weakened by years of blockade, this could be disastrous. Gaza simply does not have the resources and means to weather such a story. Any contribution is gratefully received, every penny will make a difference”, he added.

Amidst the current global crisis and in response to the continuing critical needs of Palestine refugees and in alignment with WHO and UN Preparedness and Response plans, UNRWA has developed and activated an Agency-wide COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

In the meantime, the Coalition of Civil Committees of the Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon distributed vegetables to a number of displaced Palestinian families from Syria in Lebanon's AlBekaa region.



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Bread loafs have also been handed over to the refugees, in cooperation with AlFalah Palestine Charity.

The UN has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.

