



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

26-04-2020

No. 2741

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"With Advent of Holy Ramadan Palestinian Refugees from Syria Continue to Suffer Abject Poverty"

- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Succumbs to COVID-19 in Sweden
- Palestinian Refugee Nidham AlDeen Abu Khamis Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons
- Aid Items Handed Over to Displaced Families in Yarmouk Camp

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

This year's Holy Ramadan month has been tougher for Palestinian refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories (PRS), as the coronavirus outbreak means that many PRS have not been able to reunite with or provide for their families.

Several PRS families have been scattered in displacement camps set up in northern Syria and on borderlands with the war-torn country. Scores of others have been stranded in reception facilities set up in European and Asian countries, where they have been facing dire living conditions due to overcrowding, poor hygiene, and lack of access to vital services.

At the same time, hundreds of families taking shelter in displacement camps in northern Syria continue to struggle for survival as they have been deprived of much-needed items and vital services, particularly healthcare, at a time when the novel coronavirus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people around the world.





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Palestinian refugees from Syria have been denied easy access to neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, and North African countries.

The Turkish embassies have suspended visas for Palestinian refugees from Syria for over five years. Jordan also issued a decision officially banning the entry of the Palestinians of Syria regardless of their condition.

Palestinian refugees from Syria are reported to lack legal status in Lebanon. The absence of a specific legislation addressing the unique situation of the Palestinians of Syria has made them vulnerable to marginalization within the Lebanese polity.

Most of the Gulf countries have also outlawed granting visas to Palestinians with Syrian travel documents since 2013.

After eight years of conflict, Palestinian refugees in and from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and forced thousands to become internally displaced.

UN data indicates that as many as 120,000 Palestine refugees have fled war-stricken Syria since 2011, including 28,000 to Lebanon.

The Syrian conflict has impacted Palestine refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories. There used to be 560'000 countrywide, mainly in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus and Deraa.



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According to the UN, today, some 440,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria, more than half of them are internally displaced, and nearly all require sustained humanitarian assistance.

In another development, Palestinian refugee from Syria Ibrahim AlKhatib was pronounced dead on April 21 as a result of coronavirus.

Ibrahim, a former resident of Latakia city, fled to Sweden some three years ago. He worked as a teacher at a UNRWA school in Syria. This is the second reported coronavirus-related death among the Palestinian refugee community from Syria in Europe.

So far, 11 cases of COVID-19 infections have been confirmed among the Palestinian refugee community from Syria in Europe, eight among whom live in Sweden and another in Germany.



On March 29, Palestinian refugee from Syria Hasan Tershahani, aged 72, succumbed to the disease in the Netherlands.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Nidham AlDeen Husain Abu Khamis, born in 1960, has been secretly locked up in a Syrian government jail for the 6th consecutive year.



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The refugee was kidnapped at a government checkpoint on January 5, 2014. His condition and whereabouts have not been identified.

AGPS documented the secret incarceration of 1,794 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state-run lock-ups, among them over 100 women and girls.

Meanwhile, the popular committee in Yarmouk Camp handed over food baskets to families with special needs.

Sometime earlier, the committee distributed disinfectants and detergents to residents of the Uruba neighborhood in the camp.

After nine years of conflict, Palestine refugees, particularly those taking shelter in Yarmouk, continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp continue to launch cries for help over their exacerbated situation due to the price hike, high unemployment rates, steep rental fees, and the decline in civilians' purchasing power.



The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who



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remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk's families have lived on aids handed over to them by UNRWA.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area. Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19.