



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



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"General Strike Held in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees"

- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Kheir Saleh Released from Syrian Prison
- Property-Theft Reported in Jaramana Camp
- Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon to Take Part in UNRWA Output Assessment
- UNRWA: Healthcare Services for Palestinian Refugees Right not Privilege

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Latest Developments

A general strike has been staged across Deraa city, south of Syria, to protest upcoming Syrian elections.

At the same time, tension has been running high in the area as an explosive device went off in the area.

Over recent years, dozens of assassination operations have targeted Palestinian refugees sheltered south of Syria.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Kheir Saleh, born in 2002, was released six days after his arrest in Esenyurt, in Istanbul.

Mohamed was arrested by Turkish police on Thursday April 19 for not holding the temporary protection card “kimlik”.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee families in Jaramana camp, in Rif Dimashq, have raised concerns over the increasing abductions, home-burglary attempts, and sexual harassment reported in the area, particularly overnight due to chronic power blackouts.

Over recent months, the Syrian authorities arrested gangsters involved in property-theft in the camp.

A couple of days earlier, gunshots were fired in AlQeitiya neighborhood in the camp at the crack of dawn.

Over recent years, residents of Jaramana Camp have launched cries for help over the dire socio-economic conditions, high



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unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, steep rental fees, and chronic water crisis rocking the area.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

UN data indicates that before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

Meanwhile, UNRWA called on Palestinian refugees from Syria to fill in a form about their assessment of the Agency's services in Lebanon.

UNRWA's media chief Fadi Tayar said the poll is part of UNRWA's endeavours to enhance its services for Palestine refugees.

UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.



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Along similar lines, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has released its Health Annual Report for 2020, which provides essential data and information regarding the health situation of Palestine refugees in the Agency's five fields of operations – Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, and Syria, as well as the work of UNRWA health programme. The emphasis of this year's report was mainly on the adaptation of the Health Programmes activities to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the innovative ways implemented to efficiently keep delivering essential health services to Palestine refugees during this hard time.

The report presents the progress in the Agency's Health Programme (HP) efforts to meet the continuously changing health needs of Palestine refugees and to overcome all challenges that face achieving health goals so that no Palestine refugee is left behind, because everyone matters.

In 2020, more than three million registered Palestine refugees received health services free of charge at 141 UNRWA primary health care centres, served by about 3,000 health staff who provided some 5.8 million medical consultations.

The release of its annual report came at the end of an annual virtual event on Zoom organized by the UNRWA Health Department and The Lancet; the renown medical journal, collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO), and other stakeholders on the margins of the 74th World Health Assembly. This is the eighth of a series of meetings that started in



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2014 and used to be held in Geneva and became virtual last year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The theme for this webinar was “Gaza: Upholding the human crisis in Palestine.” The focus of the panel members was on the current human crisis (i.e. more than humanitarian crisis) in Palestine, with particular emphasis on Gaza, with the aim to unfold this human crisis and its impact on the health of Palestinians and Palestine refugees in Gaza and Palestine at large.

UNRWA said that two weeks from now, starting on 10 May, there has been a dramatic intensification in violence in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including an escalation in hostilities leading to massive Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, and clashes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This escalation of violence and threat of dispossession is part of the ongoing Nakba, or ‘catastrophe’ in Arabic.

Seventy-three years after more than 700,000 Palestinians became refugees following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, Palestine refugees continue to suffer from the loss of their homeland and dispossession of their property, they have remained a scattered people, further displaced by conflicts, blockaded, and living under occupation, deprived of rights and fervently longing for a resolution of their exile and dispossession.