



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



"21,000 Palestinian Refugees Receive Travel Documents in War-Torn Syria"

- Gas Distribution Centre Established in Yarmouk Camp
- Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees in Syria Gripped with Water Crisis
- Red Crescent Distributes Relief Items in Hindarat Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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## Latest Developments

The Syrian Interior Ministry said it has issued 21,000 travel documents for Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country between July 2021 and February 2022.

The data was released by director of the migration and passports authority Khaled Hadid in an interview with the Syrian TV channel.

Recently, Palestinian refugees have denounced the complicated red tape pursued by the migration and passports department run by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in Ein Kersh, in Damascus, south of Syria.

A refugee told AGPS that the passports platform suffers chronic technical problems and operates for no more than five minutes in the morning. “Getting an appointment is almost impossible due to internet and power blackouts”, he said.

A number of staffers reportedly ask for a sum of money of 100USD to give an appointment as they have booked earlier appointments using fake names. To issue a passport for a relative abroad a sum of 200 USD is required. Consular fees also cost 300USD to be paid through the Commercial Bank of Syria. Urgently-needed passports are issued in exchange for 800 USD. Another 200 USD is paid to the staffer.



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Director of the migration and passports department Major General Khaled Hadid stated that 12 people were arrested in 2021 for bribery. The head of an immigration branch along with a number of staff members, in addition to 23 policemen and an officer were brought before court for bribery.

In another development, a gas distribution site has been established at the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

A few months earlier, as weather temperature have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in Syria displacement camps expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes due to fuel and gas dearth.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, gas shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and gas charged by corrupt officials and traders.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Jaramana Camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, continue to launch distress calls over the water blackout, which has been ongoing for weeks.

Civilians have found no other way to secure potable water than to buy water supplies for privately-owned tanks at a price of up to 10,000 Syrian pounds a tank.

Residents of Jaramana Camp, located a few kilometers away from central Damascus, also continue to set off alarm bells over the lack



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of basic services and dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area as a result of the steep rental fees, high rates of unemployment, the price hike, and poor sanitation.

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.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

In the meantime, the Palestinian Red Crescent in cooperation with Hindarat Camp Youth Fingerprint distributed food items and winter clothes for children below 16.



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Some 206 families benefited from the initiative, which was sponsored by the World Food Programme. Blankets and mattresses were also distributed by the International Red Cross.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Hindarat Camp have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.