

التقرير اليومي الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

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"Situation of Palestinians from Syria in Gaza Goes Downhill as Refugees' Appeals Go Unheeded"



- **Civilians Run Out of Bread in Blockaded Yarmouk Camp**
- **Palestinian Refugee Ataf Shahada Incarcerated in Gov't Penitentiary for 4th Year Running**
- **Palestine Charity Embarks on "Winter Dress" Campaign for Yarmouk Children**



Latest Developments

176 Palestinian-Syrian families in the blockaded Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the decade-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the latest Israeli offensive on the coastal enclave.

The Palestinians of Syria in Gaza attributed the crisis to the apathy maintained by the human rights institutions, most notably the UNRWA, and the official authorities, namely the national consensus government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).



Civilians launched cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and steep rental fees, which they said have been the by-products of the 2014 Israeli war on Gaza. Restrictions on civilians' free access out of and into the blockaded Gaza Strip further marred refugees' life in the enclave.

AGPS quoted sources from the follow-up committee for refugees who fled from Syria to Gaza as stating that the number of Palestinian families



from Syria in Gaza has been estimated at 176 families, down from 360 in 2013.

According to the committee, dozens of Palestinian families from Syria fled Gaza to Libya and Egypt as they hunted for channels to move to Europe.

The committee spoke out against UNRWA's reluctance to shell out the monthly allowances allocated for the Palestinians of Syria, which have been estimated at \$200 per every single family, up from \$125 in previous years. UNRWA further rebuffed appeals to include the Palestinians from Syria in Gaza on its employment and housing assistance agenda.

Over recent years, Palestinian families from Syria received no more than \$300 each from the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the PLO while primary, middle, and high school students received an annual allowance of \$25. University students received \$250 per year.

On August 18, 2015, the PA-led cabinet issued a decision to grant the refugees a monthly aid allowance of up to \$250, cancelling an earlier cabinet resolution issued on April 6, 2015, to seek a durable solution to the refugees' cause. The Palestinian Ministry of Labor further recruited the refugees for a period of six months but up to now the workers' dues have not been shelled out.

Sometime later, on April 5, 2016 Social Affairs Minister Ibrahim Al-Shaer tasked the authorities to put into effect a resolution stipulating that refugees be granted aids, jobs, and health insurance. However none of such pledges has materialized on the ground.



The committee further harked back to a 2013 meeting with the ex-Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haneyya in the Commodore Hotel to welcome the refugees from Syria. At the time, Haneyya said nine bonds were approved to assist the refugees in terms of housing, education, and health care, among other vital needs. However only a decision to provide employment for one member per every refugee family, with a provisional allowance worth \$200 per month, saw the day. The assistance program came to an abrupt end in 2014.

The Palestinian refugees from Syria appealed to the international institutions, most notably UNRWA, the PLO, and the PA to urgently step in and take up their duties vis-à-vis the crisis.

Meanwhile, residents of the blockaded Yarmouk Camp have run out of bread after the Syrian Red Crescent suspended bread delivery for the second day running.

According to local residents, such areas as Haifa Street have been bereaved of bread for over a month's time due to the tough cordon slapped by ISIS militias on Fatah Al-Sham-led areas.

Yarmouk residents attributed the acute dearth in bread to the disagreements between the heads of relief institutions operating in southern Damascus. Bread distribution in Yalda is reportedly managed by the Relief Office for the People of Yarmouk.

Palestinian families sheltered in southern Damascus have been grappling with dire living conditions due to unemployment, poverty, and absence of relief assistance.



In another development, the Palestinian refugee Ataf Hussein Shahada, born in 1990, has been locked up in Syrian regime penitentiaries for the fourth consecutive year after she was kidnapped by the government troops from Al-Tadhamun area, adjacent to Yarmouk.

At least 1,153 Palestinian refugees have been incarcerated in Syrian lock-ups, among whom 83 female refugees whose fate has been shrouded in mystery.

Civil Action Commissions

The Palestine Charity Commission embarked on a so-called “Winter Dress” campaign for Palestinian children in southern Damascus.

According to the campaigners, the move aims to provide 400 schoolchildren at Al-Jarmak School with winter clothes and to install heaters in classrooms.





Palestinians of Syria: February 3, 2017 Statistics:

- *At least 3,430 Palestinians, including 455 women, were killed in war-torn Syria.*
- *1,153 Palestinian refugees, including 83 women, are incarcerated in Syrian government lock-ups.*
- *Yarmouk refugee camp has been blockaded by the Syrian regime army and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) for 1,325 days in a row.*
- *190 Palestinians died of undernourishment and medical neglect in the blockaded Yarmouk Camp.*
- *Water supplies cut off in Deraa and Yarmouk camps respectively for 1,028 and 835 days.*
- *Residents of Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, denied access to their homes for 1,372 days. Government battalions have been holding sway over the camp for more than 106 days.*
- *Government troops ban residents of Al-Sbiena Camp from returning to their homes for 1,177 days running.*
- *Over 79,000 Palestinian Syrian refugees fled to Europe until mid 2016.*
- *31,000 Palestinians from Syria are housed in Lebanon.*
- *17 Palestinians from Syria are taking refuge in Jordan.*
- *6,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees are sheltered in Egypt.*
- *8,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees are taking shelter in Turkey.*
- *1,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees are sheltered in the blockaded Gaza Strip.*