



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



### "Residents of Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria Summoned over Social Media Posts"

- Situation of Displaced Palestinians in Northern Syria Exacerbated by Summer Heat
- UNRWA Launches US\$ 94.6 Million COVID-19 Appeal for Palestine Refugees
- UNRWA to Distribute 3<sup>rd</sup> Aid Batch for Palestinian Refugees
- UN Calls for Enhancing Conditions in Greece's Migrant Camps

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## Latest developments

An AGPS reporter said over 60 residents of AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, have been arrested over social media content.

Speaking with an AGPS correspondent, a resident who was summoned to questioning said none of his social media posts carried political messages.

The residents said several residents have been increasingly chased down in the area over allegations of committing electronic crimes.

In another development, hundreds of Palestinian refugee 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 grip the region.

The situation has been made worse by the scorching summer heat and high temperatures engulfing the poorly-equipped displacement camps. Several cases of food-borne poisoning have been recorded in the area due to spoiled food consumption.

The families have been concerned over the propagation of poisonous snakes, scorpions, and insects in the region, where most hospitals have been rendered out of operation.

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



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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.

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.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched a US\$ 94.6 million COVID-19 Appeal for continued pandemic response.

This funding is required by the Agency to mitigate the worst impacts of the pandemic on 5.6 million registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East until the end of December 2020, with a special focus on health, cash assistance and education.

UNRWA said in a statement that since July, COVID-19 cases have worryingly surged in the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, with more



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recent increases in Jordan and the first instances of local transmission in Gaza recorded in late-August.

The Appeal is crucial for controlling the spread of the pandemic in Palestine refugee camps and to help prevent a major outbreak. The Agency's initial appeal allowed for the continued provision of health and hospitalization, as well as the adoption of measures that largely helped contain the spread of the virus, such as home delivery of medicines, telemedicine and triage systems, it added.

“UNRWA will continue the strict measures it put in place as a result of COVID-19 at least until the end of December”, said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini. “This new flash Appeal will sustain our health, education and emergency services. In parallel, we will step up relief interventions to address the growing poverty and despair among Palestine refugees.”

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini noted: “I call on our global partners to continue helping millions of Palestine refugees stay safe. In these uncertain times, the predictability of the Agency's services, particularly health and education, help maintain a sense of normality and stability in Palestine refugee communities.”

The ramifications of COVID-19-related lockdowns have crippled economies across the region, leaving millions without a stable source of income.

Along similar lines, UNRWA said Palestinian refugees in Syria will be receiving the third batch of their cash aid via ATM cards.



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In the meantime, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioners for Protection and Operations, Gillian Triggs and Raouf Mazou, concluded a four-day visit to Greece last week.

Their visit focused on issues relating to access to territory and asylum, living conditions for refugees and asylum-seekers on the mainland and the islands, the management of the COVID-19 response, child protection, alternatives to detention, refugee integration and the transition of accommodation and cash programmes from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to the Greek State.

“Greece and its people have shown tremendous solidarity and compassion with thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers, despite all the challenges the country has faced, including a severe economic crisis and now the COVID-19 pandemic,” said UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Raouf Mazou.

“But there are critical gaps and issues that must be addressed, including the urgent need to drastically improve living conditions and reduce overcrowding at the reception facilities on the Aegean Islands, as well as ensuring the full inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the COVID-19 response”, he added.





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More than one million refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through Greece since 2015. While the numbers of those arriving since have significantly dropped over the past five years, there are still people who continue to arrive in need of protection.

“We have had very constructive and open exchanges with the authorities including on the need to safeguard the right to seek asylum and to investigate the reports we have received of pushbacks at land and sea,” said UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs.

“We reiterate our calls to the authorities to ensure access to territory and protection against refoulement for those in need of protection and also for long-term solutions to help refugees integrate into the country”, he said.

In addition to meetings with Government officials leading on the refugee response, NGOs and humanitarian partners, the Assistant High Commissioners also met with refugees and asylum-seekers in Athens and Lesbos.

They consulted with refugees, including refugee women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and with unaccompanied children, in need of safe homes or reunification with family members abroad. During their visit, they also met with families who are to depart to Germany as part of a relocation project supported and funded by the European Commission.

They also listened to the concerns expressed by families who were granted asylum in Greece but prematurely exited from basic



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assistance and shelter support programs and now face homelessness in Athens. They expressed to UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioners their worries about their day-to-day subsistence and future prospects, in the absence of support to enable them to become self-reliant.

Given the challenges faced by Greece, UNHCR has been calling on the EU and its Member States to step up their support and demonstrate their solidarity, particularly through the relocation of vulnerable asylum-seekers.