

06-09-2019

No. 2498

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Proven Ownership Set as Precondition for Return of Displaced Families to Yarmouk Camp"

- Civilians Left Under Threat of War Remnants in Syria's Hadarat Camp
- Situation of Palestinian Refugees in AlMuzeireeb Exacerbated by Lake Drought
- Canada Denies Report 100,000 Palestinians Coming to Canada



Latest Developments

Member of Damascus Executive Office, Samir Jazaerli, said families wishing to return to their habitable home in Yarmouk Camp will only be allowed in if they prove ownership of the property.

A committee from Damascus toured local neighborhoods in and around the city, including Yarmouk Camp, and took down notes of the needed facilities.

A Palestinian child was pronounced dead on Wednesday after a cluster grenade exploded in Aleppo's Handarat refugee camp.

Speaking with Syrian news outlets, AlJazerli said that a study has been underway to set practical solutions for rehabilitating the camp, adding that three reconstruction visions will be put forth in the next few days. Yarmouk Camp, which falls within the administrative map run by Damascus governorate, covers 220 hectares.



The official also said buildings built without permits and which were destroyed in the warfare will not be reconstructed. Legal and



habitable buildings will be handed over to their owners following meticulous inspection, in line with Law No. 10.

According to AlJazerli, buildings located between AlBatikha neighborhood and Street 30, down to the old cemetery sustained damage of up to 90% due to their proximity to flashpoints. As for the damage wrought on the infrastructure, power and telecommunications network sustained a damage of up to 95%. A damage of 30% was reportedly inflicted on water and sanitation networks.

The residents also have retrieved water supplies in the camp after water wells in Street 30 and AlFija water lines were repaired.

A few months earlier, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.

Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp



and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

A number of activists and residents attempting to reach their homes in Yarmouk have been denied access into the area by Syrian government troops deployed at the main entrances to the camp. Reports of theft have also emerged after Syrian government forces grabbed hold of the camp and burglarized civilian homes. Progovernment troops stole electric kit, furniture, and wares, among other equipment.

Along the same line, residents of Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, voiced deep concerns over their children's safety due to the spread of unexploded war remnants across and around the camp.

On August 21, a Palestinian child was pronounced dead after a cluster munition went Off in Syria's Handarat Camp. The casualty—Shaifq Yakoob—succumbed to the wounds he sustained in the blast while he was playing outdoors. He was rushed to a hospital, but breathed his last shortly after.





Hundreds of the internationally-prohibited cluster grenades have been detected in Handarat Camp due to the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian and Russian fighter jets on the shelter.

Scores of Palestinian refugees were killed in offensives launched on refugee camps across war-torn Syria using such internationallyprohibited weapons such as phosphorous-filled bombs and cluster grenades.

Available data from the International Committee of the Red Cross, each year, large numbers of civilians are killed and injured by explosive remnants of war, such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict.

For the civilians and communities in war-affected Syria, the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Many innocent civilians, including Palestinian refugees, have lost their lives and limbs by disturbing or inadvertently coming into contact with explosive remnants of war. These weapons have also hindered reconstruction and threatened economic livelihood. Houses, hospitals and schools cannot be rebuilt until such weapons are cleared.

Local communities often have no means of dealing with the problem themselves. Most do not have the technical capacity or the resources to clear explosive remnants of war safely and few have the resources needed to deal with the psychological, medical and rehabilitative needs of victims.



Meanwhile, some 1,700 Palestinian families in AlMzeireeb, south of Syria, have been grappling with an acute dearth in drinking water after the local lake—the sole water supplier for hundreds of families in the area—has dried out as a result of the uncontrolled excavation of artesian water wells.

The manipulation of water prices by the well owners has made the situation far worse for AlMzeireeb community.



AlMuzeireeb is home to 1,700 Palestinian families, who have been enduring dire conditions due to the high rates of unemployment and swift price surge.

In another development, Canada has denied a Lebanese media report that Ottawa reached a deal with the United States to accept 100,000 Palestinian refugees – 40,000 from Lebanon and 60,000 from Syria. According to the report, similar understandings are in place for France, Belgium and Spain, each of which would take in about 15,000 Palestinians.

The Immigration Minister's Press Secretary Mathieu Genest said: "Canada does not have such an agreement with the United States



and there are no special programs currently being considered to resettle people from Lebanon or Syria."

Genest goes on to say that they regularly "monitor for online misinformation and disinformation," and that the government aims to "act quickly to provide facts" in instances such as these.

The initiative is said to be part of US President Donald Trump's anti-Palestinian "deal of the century", the political components of which will be unveiled after Israel's September 17 election.