



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



**"Damascus Authorities: Return of Displaced Families to Palestinian Refugee Camp of Yarmouk Subject to 3 Conditions"**

- Palestinian Student with Special Needs Achieves Outstanding School Results
- UNRWA's Mobile Clinic for Yarmouk Camp Operative
- Saudi Arabia Reaffirms Strong Support to Palestine Refugee Agency
- Palestinian Refugee Husam Ali AlRefai Secretly Held in Syrian Prison for 7th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

The residents of Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees have been told that they can now return to their homes, so long as they meet a number of conditions.

Damascus Governorate has set three conditions for the return of the residents of Yarmouk camp to their homes, member of the executive office of Damascus Governorate Samir Jazaerli told pro-regime newspaper Al-Watan.

Jazaerli explained that Damascus Governorate had agreed to the return of the residents on condition that the building they live in is habitable, the submitted ownership documents are valid, and the necessary approvals are issued by local authorities.

He pointed out that the committee tasked with brokering the return of Yarmouk camp residents to their homes discussed, during a meeting held on Monday evening, the 2,900 objections filed against the new reconstruction plan issued by Damascus Governorate in June. Dozens of Palestinian families have recently submitted their property documents at the Syrian security checkpoint pitched on Street 30, outside of Yarmouk camp, in order to obtain security approvals to return to their houses.

Meanwhile, Palestinian student Omar Samer AlKhatib, born in 2004 and raised in AlSabina refugee camp in Rif Dimashq, got a score of 2,052 as part of 9<sup>th</sup> grade exams in Syria for the 2019/2020 academic year.





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In an interview with a Syrian TV channel, Omar said he pulled out all the stops to make his dreams come true.

Omar studied at a school for visually-impaired people before he moved to a private school after his parents and teachers encouraged him to do so.

Displaced Palestinian refugees with special needs have been gripped with dire conditions in camps and communities across the Syrian territories.

The situation of dozens of children with disabilities has gone far worse after they lost their parents in the bloody warfare. Others have endured limb amputation owing to the violent onslaughts.

UNRWA said it assists more than 2,300 Palestine refugees with disabilities in Syria, who have had their lives marred by the unabated warfare and bloody strife.

Assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees, including persons with disabilities, is provided by donors like the European Union. The European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has funded assistance to those with disabilities, as well as female-headed households.

Along similar lines, UNRWA's Health Programme said the mobile clinic allotted to the residents of Yarmouk Camp started operating on September 23 at AlJarmak School and provided assistance to 65 patients, including children, elderly people, and expectant women.



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UNRWA said that it will provide primary health care services to more than 400 Palestinian refugee families who returned to the camp and who are in need of medical treatment.

Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, Prafulla Mishra, pledged that the Agency will continue to provide vital service to Palestinian refugees who have recently returned to the camp.

In another development, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has contributed US\$ 25 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) through its embassy in Jordan.

UNRWA said in a statement that the contribution is part of a larger pledge by the Kingdom to help the Agency's maintain critical services to 5.6 million Palestine refugees in the region.

Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said that "at a time of regional political turmoil, pandemic and economic and financial crises, Palestine refugees will know that their rights and wellbeing are not being questioned and that Saudi Arabia stands by them."

In Riyadh, Lazzarini reiterated the centrality of UNRWA services to the lives of Palestine refugees and called for Saudi's continued political and financial support.

In his meetings with Senior Saudi Officials including Adel Al Jubair, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Al Rabbeah, Supervisor General of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and



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Relief Center, Khalid Al Khudairy, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Saudi Fund for Development, he discussed how access to basic services such as health and education provide a sense of normality to Palestine refugees despite the turmoil around them.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA programme budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Husam Ali AlRefai, born in 1988 and formerly sheltered in Yarmouk Camp, has been incarcerated in Syrian state prisons for seven consecutive years.

Husam was kidnapped by government troops deployed at a Damascus checkpoint on May 15, 2013. The reasons for his abduction remain mysterious.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees, including 110 women and girls, in Syrian government lock-ups.

Medical studies have shown that prisoners who fall prey to enforced disappearance and heavy psycho-physical torture are never the same again once they are released from penal complexes.



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The upshots of such a dreadful experience are so heavy that the ex-prisoner is very likely to lose his/her psychological equilibrium and remain traumatized for the rest of his/her lifetime.