



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



"On Int'l Volunteer Day...Palestinian Woman Devotes Her Life to Needy People"

- Man Assassinated by Unidentified Militia in Southern Syria
- Palestinians from Syria Appeal for Increase in UNRWA Aids
- Palestinian Refugee Abdul Kader Alyan Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Govt for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

After more than eight years of bloody shootouts, Palestinian volunteers and relief officers in Syria continue to face dangerous challenges and threats from all warring parties.

AGPS documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian volunteers and the forced disappearance of hundreds more.

The story of Palestinian refugee Faten Umm Samih is one that has drawn the respect and admiration of people around her.

Called Umm Fares, the woman started her humanitarian work in Ghouta, in Damascus, shortly after the Syrian government imposed a tight cordon on the area.

Umm Fares has been cooking meals every day and handing them over to the most vulnerable persons.



Given the increase in demands and growth in needs, Umm Fares launched the “One Hand” charity, which distributes free meals to the most affected families in besieged zones. Food is carried through Umm Fares’s Suzuki car.



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The charity's work spread to other towns in Eastern Ghouta, from Zabdeen and Deir AlAsafeer to Beit Nayem, AlMuhammadiya, Marj AlSultan, and AlMidaa, down to Harsata.

Umm Samih defied the frightening sounds of shells and daunting scenes of bloodshed to reach the poor and needy using her car or walking on her own feet for several kilometers, never caring about the width of destruction and life-threatening risks she was taking with every single step.

“I will keep up my mission for the sake of children who have been deprived of their childhood”, she said.

On March 22, 2018, she packed her remaining belongings and headed with dozens of families to northern Syria, as the shelling had hit the climax.

But the woman never gave up. As soon as she reached northern Syria, she started anew, cooking meals and collecting funds to dozens of orphans in the area. She's become known as “the Mother of Everyone”.

Umm Fares is a native of Yafa, north of Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1948. She holds a B.A. in English from Damascus University and worked as a translator prior to the outburst of the Syrian conflict. She had been arrested three times for taking part in protests and was subjected to torture by Syrian security forces.

In another development, 58-year-old Ahmad Ali AlRahal was killed by anonymous gunmen in AlMuzeireeb town, west of Daraa province, south of Syria.



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The man was fatally shot outside of his house at the entrance to the town. The gunmen could not be identified.

Over recent years, Palestinians taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb town have expressed deep concern over the security situation in the area after reports have emerged on increasing assassination attempts.

Activists have accused pro-government militias in Syria of assassinating opposition affiliates south of Syria in violation of the reconciliation accords struck between the two sides.

AGPS documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Daraa province, including dozens from AlMuzeireeb town, home to nearly 8,500 Palestinian refugees.

Meanwhile, Palestinian activists in Syria stressed the need to sustain and increase UNRWA's financial aids to Palestinian refugees in Syria.

In posts circulated on social media, activists said that UNRWA's intent to conduct a survey in early 2020 over whether Palestinian refugees prefer in-kind or cash food assistance does not make sense at a time when refugees are in need of urgent aids, financial and in-kind.





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The activists called on UNRWA to enhance its health services, supply the clinics with the needed medicines, and strike deals with other doctors.

They further stressed the need for the Agency to improve teaching methods, after results in UNRWA schools have gone remarkably downhill.

The activists also launched distress signals over the price hike, absence of relief assistance, and high rates of unemployment.

Human rights data indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) have been living below the poverty line. After eight years of conflict, PRS continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and 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 severely undermined coping mechanisms.

A vulnerability assessment conducted by UNRWA in December 2017 estimated that 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in absolute poverty (less than US\$ 2 person/day) prior to receiving UNRWA cash assistance. As a result, it is expected that a large majority of the Palestine refugee population will continue to rely on UNRWA humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs in the years to come.

In 2018, UNRWA estimated that 438,000 Palestine refugees remained in the country out of 560,000 individuals registered with



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the Agency in Syria. Displacement, loss of assets and livelihood, and high levels of inflation have contributed to the increased vulnerability of civilians, including the Palestine refugee population.

Many families have lost their main breadwinner, whether through death, incapacitation, detention or departure to another country in order to seek protection and asylum.

Almost 60 per cent of Palestine refugees have been displaced at least once since the beginning of the conflict and, according to UNRWA estimates; more than 180,000 have had their homes destroyed or severely damaged due to hostilities.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Abdul Kader Alyan has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government dungeons, where he has been held for over seven years.

Alyan, affiliated with the Islamic Jihad-Palestine, was kidnapped by the government troops from his home in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

AGPS kept record of the secret internment of 1,769 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government jails.

