



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

09-02-2021

No. 3131

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Stranded in Thailand Push for Urgent Humanitarian Action"

- Water Poisoning Cases Reported in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- Power Crisis Exacerbated by Cable Theft in Khan Dannun Camp
- Residents of Jaramana Camp Denounce Mistreatment at UNRWA Clinic
- AlNeirab Refugee Camp Gripped With Price Hike

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Latest Developments

AGPS continues to sound alarm bells over the deteriorating humanitarian condition endured by dozens of Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to the Kingdom of Thailand. The refugees risk to be forcibly sent back to Syria or tossed into Thai detention centers for indefinite periods of time.

Sometime earlier, the refugees urged Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to pressurize the Thai authorities so as to release refugees trapped at IDC detention center and grant them legal and physical protection.

The refugees said the Thai authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for visa-renewal after they overstayed their residence permits. The Thai government also prohibited renting homes to the refugees, who have been considered as lawbreakers rather than asylum-seekers.

Speaking with AGPS on condition of anonymity, a jailed Palestinian refugee who fled war-torn Syria to Thailand said: “We fled the Syrian warfare to Thailand seeking a safe shelter. However, we’ve been mistreated by local authorities and sent to jail. Others were forcibly pushed back to war-torn Syria.”

The witness also said scores of refugees have gone through psychological breakdowns due to the squalid conditions they have been facing in Thailand. “Several detained refugees from different nationalities have attempted suicide after they lost hope”.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Palestinian refugees from Syria trapped in Thailand continue to slam the apathy maintained by the international community, the United Nations, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas regarding their suffering.

AGPS calls on the Thai authorities to work out the refugees' legal status after dozens of them overstayed their visas and have, thus, been sent to jail. Dozens of families continue to live in a state of perpetual fear and deep-seated trauma in Thailand.

Along similar lines, a number of residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, were intoxicated by sewage-contaminated water.

Representative of the water company in the area said such water toxemia cases have exclusively been recorded in AlSayeda Zeinab camp.

The residents said drinking water has been contaminated by sewage, causing it to become foul and salty.

Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring squalid conditions due to high rates of unemployment.

Ten years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

The reluctance maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned bodies regarding their cries for help has made the situation far worse.

As a result, Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage has been inflicted on the camp.

The situation has been exacerbated by the lockdown measures imposed as part of the anti-coronavirus battle.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

Meanwhile, power cables have been stolen from houses and alleyways in Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power blackouts.

Sources inside the camp pointed the finger at pro-regime militias. Others attributed the phenomenon to the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by several families in the camp.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at a the UNRWA-run clinic.

A number of refugees who showed up at the facility for treatment have reportedly been prevented from entering the clinic under the pretext of anti-coronavirus protocols.

Local activists have urged the UN refugee agency, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and all other concerned authorities to take immediate action in response to the mistreatment reported at the UNRWA premises.

In a statement emailed to AGPS, the residents slammed the medical staff at the clinic for their apathy regarding the appeals of a number of patients to undergo urgent medical diagnoses. Medical tests and surgeries have been suspended for over 40 days.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.

Many of the refugees worked as street vendors, government employees or in nearby industrial plants. Some inhabitants find work in the informal sector through collecting garbage for recycling. The majority of women are domestic workers in Damascus to supplement family income. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

Along similar lines, residents of AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, said prices have skyrocketed at the local market, where vital products have been sold at exorbitant costs.

The residents called on local authorities to take serious measures in response to price manipulation and violations of product pricing rules.

Living conditions in AlNeirab Camp have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.