



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Residents of Yarmouk Camp Denounce Water, Bread Dearth"

- Relief Campaign to Assist Palestinians of Syria Kick-Started
- UN Palestine Refugee Agency Reiterates Appeal for Urgent Donations amid COVID-19 Outbreak
- UNHCR Urges European Countries to Rescue Migrants

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Latest Developments

Residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, have been struggling with an acute shortage in bread and fuel. A water crisis has made the situation more calamitous.

In appeals passed on to AGPS, civilians called on the concerned authorities to urgently step in and provide vulnerable families with much-needed bread and drinking-water, at a time when a full lockdown has been slapped across the war-ravaged country over coronavirus outbreak.

Civilians have also appealed to UNRWA, international humanitarian institutions, and the Palestinian Authority to help them gain access to vital health services and open clinics in order to treat patients. They further stressed the need for spraying disinfectants and distributing detergents to curtail the pandemic.



Scores of stranded families fled Yarmouk Camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the area following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in



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Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

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.

In another development, PalToday TV Channel, in cooperation with the Charity Commission for Relief of Palestinian People, embarked on “Be Compassionate” campaign to assist Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Relief Commission has called on the national and international human rights and humanitarian institutions to contribute to the campaign, slated to kick off on Thursday at 1p.m. via PalToday Channel.

After nine years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestine refugees from Syria have been severely affected by the ongoing armed conflict. Of the total 438,000 Palestine refugees from Syria, the vast majority require assistance.



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Along similar lines, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said it is facing a critical financial situation amid the outbreak of COVID-19, despite the low number of infected refugees.

"The financial situation is at a critical point, in light of the outbreak of the coronavirus," said UNRWA's spokesperson Sami Mshasha, noting that the organization received only 4 million U.S. dollars in response to its flash appeal launched in March to meet its 14-million-dollar needs to confront the deadly virus.



"Different world countries are busy dealing with their own affairs. This is natural and we understand it, but the virus will not stop at the gates of the refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon or in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem," he added.

Mshasha said that, so far, the number of cases of Palestinian refugees who have contracted the virus in Jordan and the West Bank is low, warning that the outbreak of the virus inside refugee camps is dangerous in light of the overcrowding and lack of adequate homebound quarantine conditions.

He noted that UNRWA is in constant talks with authorities in the hosting countries: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. However, he stressed that the ongoing efforts require financial resources.



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UNRWA is the oldest and biggest relief organization for Palestinian refugees. It was established in 1949 and it provides humanitarian aid to around 5.6 million Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

Overall, the UNRWA runs 709 schools, providing primary education to some 530,000 students, and operates 144 clinics, in addition to its social aid and food programs in the region.

Meanwhile, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has urged EU Member-States to increase efforts in order to prevent migrant drownings off the Mediterranean coast.

UNHCR representative in Germany Franck Ramsus said migrants should not be left alone, especially following “operation Irini”, a new naval EU mission representing the practical realization of the truce reached in January at the Berlin Conference, where international backers of Libyan factions agreed to abstain from supplying weapons. This new operation is directed at enforcing the arms embargo established by the UN Security Council but never properly implemented.





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IRINI, officially announced by High Representative Joseph Borrell on 31st March 2020, has been negotiated between representatives of Member States since February and received the green light on March 27th by the Council of the EU.

According to AGPS data, 57 Palestinians from Syria, mostly women, children, and elderly refugees, drowned onboard the death boats to Europe, fleeing the tattered Syrian territories.