



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



**"Deir Ballout School Opens Doors for Displaced Palestinian Students"**

- UNRWA Facing \$120 Million Deficit in Its Budget
- Laureate Students Honored in Syria's Hama Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Wins 3rd Seat in Lebanon Contest

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## Latest Developments

The only school in Deir Ballout refugee camp, in Syria's northern region of Efrin, has opened its doors with the start of the new academic year. The move was kick-started by volunteer activists sheltered in the camp, in cooperation with the Turkish charity AFAD.

Classrooms in Deir Ballout School are taught in makeshift tents equipped with a handful of seats and blackboards.

In 2018, some 250 students, out of 1,500 students taking refuge in Deir Ballout and the adjacent refugee camp of AlMuhammadiya, attended classes at the school. The teaching staff is made up of nine volunteer tutors, a general supervisor, and a director.



Students have been however unable to afford school furniture and winter garments needed with the advent of freezing temperatures in the area.

The displaced families have appealed to UNRWA and other concerned institutions to work on providing the school with the needed equipment and students with furniture.



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Palestinian children in refugee camps across the ravaged Syrian territories have been the permanent targets of arbitrary abduction sweeps and human rights violations. Dozens died as a result of undernourishment and medical neglect in besieged refugee camps. Shelling took away the lives of dozens more.

In another development, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on Saturday that it is facing a \$120 million deficit in this year's \$1.2 billion budget.

UNRWA spokesman Sami Mshasha told Voice of Palestine radio that despite this shortage and attempts to dissolve it, the Agency has succeeded in starting the new school year and kept on providing services in health, education and social welfare in its five operating areas that include the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.



He said UNRWA is working with the Palestinian, Jordanian and Arab governments to garner political and financial support in order to get the United Nations to renew its mandate for the next three years.





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“These efforts are important to help UNRWA continue to provide services to the refugees,” he said.

Mshasha said UNRWA is committed to cooperate with the committee investigating alleged corruption in the organization but that there should be separation between corruption in UNRWA and extending its mandate, which is being used by some countries for political ends.

“There are some legal and administrative mishandling in the work of the Agency, but attempts to introduce changes regarding the number of refugees and the definition of who is a refugee will not succeed,” he said in reference to the attempts by the United States and Israel to dramatically cut the number of Palestine refugees worldwide as a step toward wiping out the Palestinian refugee issue from the conflict with Israel.

The US, the long-time largest donor to UNRWA with over \$300 million annually, ended last year its support for the humanitarian organization, which was looked at as an attempt to do away with the refugee issue in favor of Israel. There are over five million Palestine refugees worldwide registered with UNRWA.

Meanwhile, a ceremony was held in AlAyedeen Camp, in Hama city, for Palestinian students who earned their secondary and basic education school certificates (literary and scientific branches) with an honor.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of popular and political Palestinian factions. Prizes were distributed to the students.



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Founded in 1950 and overseeing the Assi Valley, AlAyedeen Camp in Hama has been home to dozens of displaced Palestinian families who fled the occupied Palestinian cities of Haifa and Akka, among other Israeli-occupied villages.



In the meantime, Palestinian refugee from Syria Shadi Farid Darwish won the third place in the 2019 Diamond Cup championship staged in Beirut on September 6.

Shadi, formerly sheltered in Syria's AlAyedeen refugee camp, in Hums, won several awards in other bodybuilding contests held inside and outside of the embattled Syrian territories.

Sometime earlier, Palestinian refugee Murad Mohamed Mustafa snatched the first place in a bodybuilding contest held in AlFaiha Sports Hall in Damascus. Palestinian refugee Amer Abu Azzam, from Jaramana Camp, also won the first place in a three-kilometer race held in Damascus. Abu Azzam won the third place in another international race staged by DHL Company.