



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

11-08-2020

No. 2849

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



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

252

**Palestinian residents
of Yarmouk Camp**

**including "26" women
are held in Syrian prisons**

"252 Residents of Yarmouk Palestinian Refugee Camp Held in Syrian Prisons"

- Director of UNRWA Health Program in Syria Dies of Coronavirus
- Number of Coronavirus Cases Go Up in AlNeirab Displacement Camp
- UNRWA Pledges Sustained Education, Health Services for Palestine Refugees
- Migrants in Greece Denounce Mistreatment, Poor Hygiene

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest developments

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 252 Palestinian residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus in Syria's state-run penal complexes. The list includes 25 women.

125 of Yarmouk detainees were arrested in the camp while nine refugees were arrested in the nearby AlTadhamun neighborhood. Seven residents were arrested in AlZahira, seven in Yalda, four in AlASayeda Zeinab, and four in AlHusainiya camp. The other residents were arrested in and around Damascus.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to reveal the condition and whereabouts of hundreds of Palestinians who have been enduring mysterious fates in government-run lock-ups.

AGP also documented the death of over 570 Palestinians under torture in Syrian government prisons.

In another development, regional director of UNRWA's Health Program in Syria, Tayseer Sabagh, has succumbed to COVID-19 in Damascus.

UNRWA's medical staff, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and the Palestinian Red Crescent have mourned Tayseer's death.

He was pronounced dead at Kindi Hospital. The funeral procession will be held at AlKabon cemetery in Damascus.



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

Along similar lines, confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in AlNeirab refugee camp in Aleppo, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Dozens of cases have been reported in the area. Several coronavirus-residents refuse to reveal their names over bullying concerns.

An oxygen bottle is sold at a price of over 4,000 Syrian Pounds, a sum that far exceeds the residents' cash-stripped budgets.

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying an urgent action is needed to save the camp.

Recently, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.

The Health Ministry's coronavirus team said wearing face masks and respecting social distancing has become an obligation at commercial centers and public facilities. Those who violate such orders will have to pay a fine of 8,000 Syrian pounds.



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

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Meanwhile, UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, said one of the Agency's key priorities is to provide education and healthcare services for Palestine refugees in its five fields of operations.

Lazzarini sent a message of assurance to the Palestine refugee community, saying UNRWA has no intention to cut its services.

He added that the Agency has been mobilizing donors to increase funds so as to help UNRWA overcome its financial deficit and keep up its services for over 5.6 Palestine refugees.

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,



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

which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

In the meantime, migrants and asylum seekers sheltered in a camp set up in Thebes city, in Athens, have denounced the absence of vital services in the area, including cleaning, garbage clearance, and healthcare.

An AGPS reporter said the asylum seekers have lashed out at the Greek authorities over their apathy regarding their appeals for much-needed humanitarian assistance and for urgent waste clearance.

Palestinian refugees and other migrants have been subjected to a dire humanitarian situation in migrant camps and other substandard facilities set up in Greece, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone.

Over recent months, Greece's refugee camps have been running at four or five times their capacities, with tens of thousands of migrants crammed into poorly-equipped tents.



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

Recently, the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) and Oxfam have warned that the new Greek asylum system is designed to deport people rather than offer them safety and protection.

According to GCR and Oxfam, this means that people who have fled violence and persecution have little chance of a fair asylum procedure, and even families with children are regularly detained in inhumane conditions.

In the report ‘Diminished, Derogated, Denied’, published on July 1, the organisations showed how the reformed Greek asylum law, which entered into force on 1 January 2020 and was later amended in May, exposed people to abuse and exploitation.

The situation is further aggravated by the inhumane living conditions in Greece’s refugee camps where people are now at risk of a devastating health crisis should COVID-19 reach the camps.

The organisations’ analysis found that many particularly vulnerable people – such as children, pregnant women and people with disabilities – have been detained upon arrival on the ‘hotspot’ islands, without sufficient access to necessary care or protection. The asylum system also makes it extremely difficult for people seeking asylum to properly present their reasons for fleeing their home countries, like conflict or persecution, to the Greek asylum service.

Over the past months, during the COVID-19 lockdown, there has been a worrying increase in cases of sexual harassments and reports of rape, and of domestic violence in Greek camps.



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

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece. Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter on Greek islands.