

الخاص بأوضاع اللجئين الفلسطينيينفي سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

## Palestinian Refugee Child and His Mother Reported Missing South of Syria

- Displaced Families in Northern Syria Displacement Camp Denounce Police Crackdowns
- Palestinian Refugees Left without Healthcare in Syria
- Awareness-Raising Campaigns Launched in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria

# Daily report on the situation of Palestinians refugees in Syria

#### **Latest Developments**

Four-year-old Palestinian-Syrian child Hesham Ahmed AlMesri and his mother have gone missing for 20 days after they disappeared from Khirbet Ghazala town, in the southern Syrian province of Deraa.

In another development, Palestinian and Syrian families sheltered in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya displacement camps, south of Syria, have denounced the crackdowns by police and intelligence officers affiliated with the Syrian regime in Gindires, north of Syria.

Police officers broke down into the camps and insulted women.

Meanwhile, a report issued by AGPS on the World Mental Health Day has sounded alarm bells over the deteriorating humanitarian condition of Palestinian refugees in/from war-torn Syria.

The warfare in Syria, which has now entered its eleventh year, has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in displacement camps for Palestinian refugees across war-torn Syria.

Over recent years, members of pro-regime militias have been accused of running networks for drug trafficking and prostitution in Palestinian refugee camps.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to



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get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians in/from Syria have been dispersed by the conflict and remain away from their homes and families.

Available figures indicate that over 120,000 Palestinian refugees fled Syria in the hunt for a safe shelter.

The situation has gone downhill as most of the world's governments have opted for a closed-door immigration policy visà-vis the Palestinian refugee community from Syria.

Hundreds have embarked on life-threatening journeys onboard the death-boats to Europe, having no place to take cover in.

Recently, several refugee families have made their way from the area to Turkey, in an attempt to reach Greek seashores, before getting to safety to a European country.

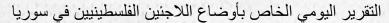
In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and forced thousands to become internally displaced.

Nearly 200,000 Palestinian refugees left Syria since the outburst of the deadly warfare in 2011. Prior to the war in Syria, 550,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in the country.

According to AGPS data, nearly 200,000 Palestinian refugees fled war-stricken Syria, among them 30,000 who have sought refuge in Lebanon, 19,000 in Jordan, 12,000 in Turkey, and 4,350 in the besieged Gaza Strip, Egypt, and Sudan.

At the same time, 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in northern Syria displacement camps, where they have been struggling for survival after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

Most of the Gulf countries and a number of Arab governments have also outlawed granting visas to Palestinians with Syrian travel





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documents. Palestinian refugees from Syria are treated as foreigners and often denied access into embassies to obtain visas.

Along similar lines, the Palestinian Red Crescent Organization in Syria held sessions to raise awareness about breast cancer at its reproductive health center in AlNeirab camp in Aleppo.

The sessions provided tips on how to deal with the psychological pressures of patients and injured people. So far, 288 benefited from the move.

A similar drive was held by the organization, in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross, in the Raml camp in Latakia, on the World Mental Health Day.

At the same time, the Quds charity, in cooperation with Yarmouk's AlShuhadaa Clinic and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees announced the launch of free medical days at AlShuhadaa Clinic in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.