

14-07-2020

No. 2821

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Authority Delegate Slammed by Yarmouk Residents"

- Arrest Sweep Targets Displaced Residents of Deir Ballout Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Jamal Released from Turkish Custody
- UNRWA in Lebanon Delays Cash Aid Delivery



Latest developments

Palestinian activists have leveled heavy criticism at Ziad Abu Amr, the envoy of the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, following his visit to AlShuhadaa Cemetery, in Yarmouk Camp. Amr was accompanied by the director of the Palestine Liberation Organization Anwar Abdul Hadi.

"Abu Amr paid a visit to dead people buried in Yarmouk but forgot to visit the living. He forgot to visit the families who have been displaced from the camp for over nine years", an activist sarcastically told AGPS.

A resident slammed the Palestinian Authority and other political factions in Syria over their apathy regarding the Yarmouk file and the ongoing property-theft.

The activists urged Abu Amr to voice firm opposition to the new organizational plan proposed by Damascus Governorate which they said blurs the socio-historical identity of the camp as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

In another development, Syrian opposition forces escorted by Turkish soldiers launched an arrest sweep in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya displacement camps, north of Syria, where hundreds of displaced Palestinian and Syrian families are taking shelter.

The Turkish and Syrian opposition forces raked through residential tents and arrested over 100 persons, among them 30



Palestinians whose names have not yet been identified. The reason behind the arrests has not been made clear.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Mofeq Jamal was released from a Turkish detention center, where he was held for the ninth consecutive day.

Mohamed was arrested on July 5, 2020 in Izmir, west of Turkey, after he failed to obtain a temporary visa card.

Jamal was arrested on his way back from his workplace. He carried a Palestinian passport obtained from the Palestinian consulate in Istanbul.

Activists had appealed to the Palestinian embassy in Turkey and representatives of the Palestinian refugee community to work on releasing Jamal and enhancing the frail legal status of Palestinian refugees in Turkey.

Meanwhile, UNRWA in Lebanon delayed cash aid delivery to Palestinians from Syria for one day.

In a statement, UNRWA attributed the delay to administrative procedures and technical arrangements with the bank. The cash grants are expected to be transferred to the refugees on Thursday, July 16.

On Tuesday, UNRWA said it will be distributing cash grants covering June and July to registered Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.



UNRWA data indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria (PRS), continue to face dire conditions and high vulnerability in Lebanon.

According to the Agency, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that UNRWA's cash assistance is their main source of income.

95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment.

In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country. The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families).

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted



freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.