

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

Resident of Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria Detained over Anti-Regime Graffiti

- Palestinian Refugee Youths in/from Syria Caught Between Hammer and Barrel
- Fires Rock Civilian House in AlNeirab Refugee Camp
- AlHusainiya Camp Grappling with Economic Crisis

## Daily report on the situation of Palestinians refugees in Syria

## **Latest Developments**

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a source told AGPS that Liwaa AlQuds militia, affiliated with the Syrian regime, detained on August 12 a person who sprayed anti-regime graffiti on the walls of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

The man was detected by cameras set up by Liwaa AlQuds in the area.

The arrestee threatened to reveal dangerous pieces of information about drug trafficking by the so-called "King of Captagon", affiliated with Liwaa AlQuds.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been accused of running networks for drug trafficking and prostitution in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas.

Liwaa AlQuds has also been accused of transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to the camp. Scores of militiamen who were forced into military conscription with regime battalions consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

In another development, Palestinian refugee youths continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the ten-year warfare in Syria, amidst a deadly pandemic outbreak.

The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria

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

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are



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exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

At the same time, the conflict has exposed the weak infrastructure and poor education and healthcare systems in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including clinics, vocational training centres, and dozens of schools.

Upon more that one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

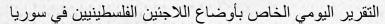
A researcher told AGPS that a surge in violence and divorce rates has also been recorded among PRS due to the trauma wrought by years of displacement, destruction, bloodshed, and hardship.

In another development, an AGPS correspondent in Aleppo said fires broke out at the house of Palestinian refugee Ahmed Hadeiri, in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

Heavy material damage was inflicted on the house.

The residents rushed to the scene to save Ahmed's wife and six children and to extinguish the fires, which have been attributed to a short circuit.

In the meantime, shopkeepers in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced the economic recession rocking





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the area due to a decline in purchasing power and the increase in poverty rates.

The price leap and the loss of livelihoods in Syria has affected consumers and merchants alike.

Eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, some 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in the war-torn country, where they have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UNRWA data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond.

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.