



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Humanitarian Campaign Launched in Solidarity with Vulnerable Families in Yarmouk Camp"

- Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Egypt Push for Urgent Humanitarian Action
- Palestinian Refugees Slam Reluctance of GAPAR Chief
- Awareness-Raising Event Held in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Ali Mahmoud Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't for 6th Year

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Latest Developments

Activists from Yarmouk Camp have launched a campaign to host vulnerable families whose homes have been severely damaged by the intense fighting and shelling.

Several residents with habitable or mildly damaged houses have expressed their willingness to share their houses with homeless families.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

On January 07, 2020, Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen AlSaman, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, called on Palestinian refugees to file lawsuits in order to return to their homes and retrieve their properties in Yarmouk.

Such calls come in response to the reluctance maintained by local authorities in Damascus regarding the residents' ongoing appeals to rehabilitate infrastructure and allow displaced civilians to safely return to the camp.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

On February 4, 2019, a petition was handed over by the residents to Damascus governor Adel Anwar AlAlabi, urging local authorities to smooth the return of displaced families to their homes.



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Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.

A number of refugees said UNRWA continues to turn its back on their calls for urgent assistance, in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

PRS have also denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by the staff members of the Palestine Embassy in Cairo.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. PRS have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.



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Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.

AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951.

Meanwhile, residents of AlNeirab camp have lashed out at the head of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), Ali Mustafa, who recently showed up in the camp.

GAPAR's chief toured the library of AlNeirab Camp and discussed, during a meeting with UNRWA staff, the humanitarian situation in the area.

The residents leveled heavy criticism at GAPAR, saying they need action rather than words.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee



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camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Along similar lines, awareness-raising activities were held at AlSafsaf School, in Deraa Camp, in order to boost children's awareness about hygiene tips and anti-coronavirus protocols, including hand washing and mask-wearing.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and



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intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Ali Mahmoud Mahmoud, aged 33, has been secretly locked up in Syrian state prisons since February 20, 2014.

AGPS has documented the incarceration of 1,797 Palestinians in Syria's state-run prisons, among them women and children.