

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

9 Years On, Palestinians of Syria Remember Tragic 'Mig Massacre' in Yarmouk Camp

- **UN General Assembly Renews UNRWA Mandate**
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camps Suffer Power Blackout
- Street-Lighting Initiative Launched in Yarmouk Camp



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

## **Latest Developments**

December 16, 2022 marks the tenth anniversary of the so-called "Mig Massacre", also known as "Abdul Kader AlHusaini massacre", in reference to the onslaughts launched by the Syrian fighter jets on Abdul Kader AlHusaini Mosque, in Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

At the time of the attack, the mosque served as a shelter for hundreds of families who fled the deadly strikes on the camp. Dozens of civilians, including children and women, were killed in the massacre.

The event marked the largest mass exodus from Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Only a handful of families have regained access to the camp, after the government forces recaptured the area.

On this notorious occasion, AGPS calls on the Syrian government to take serious measures in order to reconstruct destroyed property and rehabilitate vital facilities and infrastructure.

The regional and international humanitarian and human rights institutions should live up to their responsibilities regarding the Palestinian refugee plight and work on securing the refugees' right to physical and legal protection.

Meanwhile, this week, the majority of member states of the United Nations voted to extend the mandate for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until 30 June 2026. Established in 1949 to provide essential services to Palestine refugees, UNRWA is the only UN agency that is a direct service provider including running a full fledge school and primary health systems.

"For more than 70 years, the international community has stood together to support UNRWA because of the critical work we do to protect vulnerable lives and our contribution to regional stability. Once again, member states have reaffirmed our irreplaceable role as Palestine refugees face unprecedented hardships and challenges," said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini. "Member states need to translate their political support



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into resources to allow the Agency to fulfil its mandate. Supporting UNRWA is a vote of confidence in the future of millions of refugees who deserve to live a life of dignity in peace".

Next month, UNRWA will launch the Agency's annual financial appeal. Commissioner-General Lazzarini has warned in recent weeks that without renewed efforts to close the funding gap, UNRWA may not have sufficient funds to fulfill its mandate.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees sheltered in displacement camps across war-torn Syria continue to rail against the chronic power outage which they said has also affected their access to potable water.

Students and schoolchildren revise for exams on candle light.

Ten years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN 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.

Along similar lines, the Charity Committee has installed new solar panels in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Over recent years, the residents have frequently complained that power cables have been stolen from abandoned houses and alleyways in Yarmouk refugee camp, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power blackouts.

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