



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees Blockaded by Syrian Regime for 3rd Week"

- UNRWA Chief: Palestine Refugees in Syria Remain Resilient despite Years of Endless Hardships, Displacement
- Palestinian Refugees in Jordan Appeal for Cash Aid
- US Announces Additional Support for Palestine Refugees
- 3 Year Pass By since Palestinian Photojournalist Niraz Sa'id Died Under Torture in Syrian Prisons

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Latest Developments

The Bashar Assad regime in Syria continues to seize the overcrowded Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Deraa province, south of Syria, for over three weeks to prevent access of basic human materials.

Last week, the regime forces blocked the entry of food aid packages provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to blockaded zones, including Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees.

On June 25, the regime and its supporter, Russia, asked residents in the Daraa al-Balad neighborhood and the former military opposition there, to surrender light arms and allow houses to be searched.

The Daraa-based Reconciliation Center and local public figures in the region opposed the request on grounds that it was against an agreement reached with the regime in July 2018, under the mediation of Russia, which ceding only heavy weapons of the opposition.

The regime responded by imposing a full blockade on civilians.

The regime banned the entry of basic humanitarian materials such as medicine, food materials and fuel by barring entry and exits of the region for eight days, and counting.



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According to activists, another reason for the blockade is that residents objected to setting up ballot boxes across the province for the so-called presidential election.

In another development, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini visited Syria from 4-9 July 2021, meeting with Palestine refugees, UNRWA staff and senior government officials.

During his visit, the Commissioner-General met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Faysal Miqdad, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Bashar al-Jaafari, the Governor of Homs, Bassam Barsik, and the Director-General of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), Ali Mustafa. He briefed the government officials on the latest developments at UNRWA, financial challenges, plans to modernize the Agency's services and increase its efficiency.

During a meeting between Lazzarini and the female staff at the UNRWA field Office, the discussion focused on the importance of empowerment of women who should stand up for their rights and UNRWA efforts to strengthen the active and meaningful participation of women.

“Women should have equal rights as well as equal access to leadership positions and opportunities,” Lazzarini underlined. “Efforts to build a modern UNRWA continue with gender parity at their centre.”

In conversation with the young students at the UNRWA Damascus Training Centre, Lazzarini said: “Despite the hardships these



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young refugees have endured over the last ten years due to the war, they are still resilient and motivated. A modern UNRWA is one whose services enable young Palestine refugees to grow and compete with their peers elsewhere.”

The mission included a visit to Homs, where Lazzarini was briefed on the conditions of refugees in Homs camp and the major challenges and needs, including in education, health, youth, children, women and older persons especially during the pandemic.

The Commissioner-General expressed his deep admiration for the courage and resilience of Palestine refugees and reaffirmed the commitment of UNRWA to provide support and services to them. He also thanked staff for their tireless efforts in fulfilling their duties to support Palestine refugees in Syria.

Honoring two UNRWA high achievers in the 9th grade national exams in Homs, Lazzarini said: “We are proud of your remarkable success despite the severity of displacement and hardship you have gone through. You are a source of inspiration to others.”

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Jordan continue to launch distress signals over their dire humanitarian situation after they lost their livelihoods and have been denied access to the local labour market.

Speaking with AGPS, Palestinian refugee Ahmed Saleh said Palestinian refugee families are unable to pay house rents and provide for their children.



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He urged UNRWA's director of Jordan operations Marta Lorenzo to take urgent action regarding the refugees' cries for help and for humanitarian assistance.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan are confronted with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 100% of PRS in Jordan are in need of winterization assistance and 17,800 PRS are in need of UNRWA cash assistance.

UNRWA said that in 2021, the Agency requires US\$ 318 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

More than 2 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA live in Jordan.

There are ten recognized Palestine refugee camps throughout the country, which accommodate nearly 370,000 Palestine refugees. Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestine refugees of all of the UNWRA fields.



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The majority of Palestine refugees have sought humanitarian assistance in Jordan, where they continue to suffer from abject poverty and live in a precarious legal status.

Along similar lines, the United States announced on Saturday that it is contributing an additional US\$135.8 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In April, the U.S. government restored its support for UNRWA, providing an initial \$150 million to the UN agency to help secure life-saving services to eligible registered Palestine refugees across the Middle East.

The United States also provided nearly \$33 million in humanitarian assistance to UNRWA in May in response to the violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

The funding announcement comes alongside the United States and UNRWA signing a Framework for Cooperation that establishes shared goals and priorities in support of humanitarian assistance, human development, and protection of Palestine refugees.

“The signing of the U.S.-UNRWA Framework and additional support demonstrates we once again have an ongoing partner in the United States that understands the need to provide critical assistance to some of the region’s most vulnerable refugees,” stated UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini.



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The additional funding will continue to support the core budget of UNRWA -- the majority of which funds the operation of more than 700 schools educating over half a million children and 140 primary health clinics providing 8.5 million patient consultations a year -- as well as emergency appeals to respond to dire humanitarian challenges in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank (including in East Jerusalem) and Gaza.

In the meantime, Palestinian photographer Niraz Sa'id, from Yarmouk Camp, died one year ago under torture in Syrian government jails, where he had been detained for three years.

Niraz Sa'id was kidnapped on October 2, 2015 by Syrian government forces and dragged to a detention center in Damascus.

Sa'id left Yarmouk after ISIS stormed the camp on April 1, 2015. Sa'id, along with other peaceful activists, faced several assassination threats.

The casualty received several awards for his works of art documenting the different phases of the blockade imposed on Yarmouk. One such reward was given to him by UNRWA during a photography competition. Sa'id's timeless photograph capturing the anguish of children affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria won first prize in the European Union-supported 2014 UNRWA youth photography competition. Titled 'The Three Kings', the image shows three brothers waiting their turn to leave the besieged refugee camp in order to receive medical treatment.



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Sa'id also received several international awards for his film "Letters from Yarmouk". His photos were put on display in two exhibitions in Occupied Jerusalem and Ramallah.