



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



"Palestinian Conscripts in Syria Subjected to Mistreatment"

- Palestinian Families in Northern Syria Displacement Camp Facing Squalid Conditions
- Japan Contributes US\$ 1.8 Million for Food Assistance to Palestine Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Girl Wins Damascus Chess Championship
- Palestinian Refugee Abdul Rahim Saleh Awad Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime



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Latest Developments

Conscripts at the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime, have denounced the negligence and mistreatment they have been facing inside military barracks.

The conscripts said they have been grappling with food shortage and forced to buy food items while high-ranking officials receive rewarding cash grants and gratis food.

Recently, PLA has lowered salaries of its gunmen on claims of inferior fitness rates.

Palestinian refugees who joined the pro-regime battalions in Syria have been enduring serious crackdowns and abuses. Many of them said they have been forced to carry out exhausting personal chores for government officers against their will and under threat of punishment. Even those who have had their security files worked out have been involved in forced labor.

The conscripts' families continue to urge the Syrian regime to lay off their relatives who have served in the army for over five years.

Earlier this year, dozens of Palestinian youths joined a new military training session by the PLA.

A number of buses with young men onboard were spotted in displacement camps across the war-torn country. The conscripts were transferred to Bassel AlAssad Institute for Military training in Mesyaf town.



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The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

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.

Meanwhile, some 25 displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in ramshackle and poorly-equipped tents set up in AlBal Camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo's northern outskirts, north of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over their alarming humanitarian condition.

The families have sounded distress signals over the dire situation they have been facing owing to the absence of vital services, relief assistance, heating equipment, and power and water. The camp is located several kilometers away from the city center.

The displaced Palestinian families have appealed to UNRWA and the concerned humanitarian organizations to make urgent steps in order to alleviate their suffering.

Located north of Suran city, in the northern countryside of Aleppo, AlBal Camp was established in April 2018 to give shelter to families displaced from Eastern AlGhouta. It is home to nearly 600 makeshift tents funded by AFAD charity and the Turkish Red Crescent.



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The rampant Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on the Palestinian refugees, hundreds of whom have been struggling for survival in the violence-stricken country.

Along similar lines, the Government of Japan contributed US\$ 1.8 Million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) operations in Syria.

UNRWA said in a statement issued on Monday that this contribution, “Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria” will support the Agency to provide food assistance to 418,000 Palestine refugees in the country to help them cope with their basic food needs. This support from the Government of Japan will provide much needed assistance to the Agency’s emergency response in Syria that aims at preserving the resilience of Palestine refugees through the provision of humanitarian assistance to ensure that they meet their basic needs.

Palestine refugees in Syria have never been more vulnerable than they are now. This is caused by the protracted conflict in Syria in its 10th year now, critical socioeconomic conditions, increasing food prices, and that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Levels of poverty have increased and the populations are increasingly food insecure.

According to an assessment conducted by UNRWA in July 2020, close to 80 per cent of the surveyed persons stated that the number of meals or quantity of food consumed had reduced since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. More than 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households stated that they had to resort to



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consuming cheaper food and/or food of lower nutritious value, 99 per cent that they struggled to purchase food and other basic items due to the increasing market prices, with many going into debt to meet their basic needs. According to the post-distribution monitoring conducted in December, 48.3 per cent of the surveyed households reported poor or borderline food consumption scores.

“We are extremely grateful for this contribution,” said Amanya Michael-Ebye, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Syria. “Japan remains one of our most committed and reliable partners for the Palestine refugees. We are deeply grateful for Japan’s sustained support and strong commitment to UNRWA.”

“This timely contribution will help to ensure that UNRWA can continue providing food assistance to the most vulnerable Palestine refugees at this critical time of economic downturn aggravated by the pandemic,” added Amanya.

Akira ENDO, Special coordinator for Syria, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Syria, reiterated Japan’s commitment to supporting UNRWA and Palestine refugees: “Japan stays engaged in humanitarian assistance to all Palestinians in Syria wherever they are to meet their needs. The humanitarian crisis in Syria has become more complicated, particularly with the impacts of COVID-19, which deprived thousands of households of their food security and livelihoods. We sincerely hope that our contribution will find its way to people in need of assistance and alleviate the sufferings of as many Palestinians in Syria as possible.”



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Japan has been a dedicated partner to UNRWA for many years. Between 2015-2020, the Government of Japan was the 5th largest contributor to the Agency, playing a critical role at a time when UNRWA faced an existential crisis.

In the meantime, 11-year-old Palestinian schoolgirl Luna Fadi Mohamed, raised in Syria's Khan Dannun refugee camp, has won the second prize (-12) in a chess championship held in Rif Dimashq province on 15-16/03/2021.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In another development, Palestinian young man Abdul Rahim Saleh Awad has been secretly held in Syrian regime prisons for the eighth year running.

The refugee was arrested by Syrian security forces on April 01, 2013.



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AGPS documented the secret imprisonment of 1,797 Palestinian refugees, among them 110 women and girls, in Syrian government lock-ups.