



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



"7 Years On, Tragic Traces of 'Mig Massacre' Still Present in Yarmouk Camp"

- Qatar, UNRWA Sign US\$ 20.7 Million Agreement for Palestine Refugees
- Lighting Improvement Project Launched in Neirab Camp for Palestine Refugees
- Palestinian Author Ahmad Jamil AlHasan Passes Away

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Latest Developments

December 16, 2019 marks the seventh 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.

Yarmouk camp had come under a crippling cordon by the Syrian government forces and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command. As a result, all hospitals and facilities had gone out of operation and civilians had run out of food and life-saving items, causing the death of 201 Palestinian refugees



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due to undernourishment and the absence of vital healthcare services.

AGPS documented the death of 1,444 Palestinian refugees from Yamrouk Camp all the way through Syria's bloody warfare.

In another development, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) signed an agreement on Sunday under which the State of Qatar will contribute US\$ 20.7 million to support the access of Palestine refugees to basic services in Syria.

In a Sunday statement by UNRWA, the Agency said that the total support provided QFFD to UNRWA during the year 2019 amounts to US\$ 40 million.

The agreement was signed by Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari, Director General of QFFD and Acting UNRWA Commissioner-General Christian Saunders. The donation will directly contribute to the Agency's education program, namely by supporting basic education services for students and vocational and technical education and training courses for young Palestine refugee men and women. It will also support the provision of basic health services to 445,000 Palestine refugees in Syria.

"The State of Qatar and the Qatar Fund for Development are demonstrating once again their commitment to supporting Palestine refugees," said Acting UNRWA Commissioner-General. "This generous donation to the UNRWA operations and activities in Syria comes at a time of intense financial challenge for the Agency.



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We are truly grateful for this additional funding and look forward to further expanding the cooperation between UNRWA, the QFFD and the State of Qatar in 2020 and beyond.”

In 2018, Qatar contributed US\$ 50 million, making it one of the Agency’s top ten donors last year. Qatar’s timely contribution allowed the Agency to open its schools on time for some 530,000 boys and girls in 711 UNRWA schools.

“This agreement is an affirmation of the steadfast and firm position of the State of Qatar regarding the Palestinian issue and the State of Qatar’s special interest in the education and health sector, believing in their importance and their role in building a decent life for brothers in Palestine”, said Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari.

He added that the leadership of the State of Qatar has exerted significant efforts in development and humanitarian aid sectors in order to serve the Palestinian people in a sustainable manner.

“We support the pivotal role played by UNRWA and we are confident that UNRWA will use these resources in the optimally”, stated the Qatari representative.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA program budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.



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Meanwhile, a so-called “Nawerha Initiative” has been launched as part of the Shams Project kick-started in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, to enhance lighting across residential alleyways.



A campaigner said the move comes as a result of the frequent power blackouts in the area and also as part of attempts to eliminate factors of harassment particularly against women and children in abandoned areas and near schools and access roads.

25 lighting devices were also distributed in residential alleyways located between the local market and the school.

In the meantime, Palestinian writer Ahmed Jamil AlHasan died on Sunday, December 15, in Damascus, at the age of 63.

The writer was born in 1957, in the village of Sila Al-Harithiya, in Jenin. He had pursued his studies in the Jenin refugee camp before he moved to Irbid in Jordan with his family. He finished his primary education studies at UNRWA schools, and in 1970 he moved to Damascus, where he lived in Yarmouk camp and attended high school classes.



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He fought with Palestinian anti-occupation groups and was wounded in clashes with Israeli forces three times. He studied law at Beirut Arab University and Damascus University.

Hasan initiated his literary career at a young age and had several contributions in Palestinian and Syrian newspapers and literary publication. He was appointed Secretary of the Story Association from 2003 to 2005 and then as its Chairperson from 2007 to 2019.



His published works include “Marriage and Death in the Palestinian Folk Song” (a study), “A Bit of Sadness” (a stories collection) and “The Strange” (novel), among other renowned publications.

He participated in many literary festivals and won the third prize as part of the Quds Prize for Creativity in 2011 and the Arab Writers Union prize in Rif Dimashq in 2004.