



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



"Activists Push for Reactivation of Yarmouk Camp Municipality"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Grappling with Contaminated Water
- Palestine Refugee Agency Celebrates Global Handwashing Day in Syria
- Security Sweep Targets Refugees from Syria in Istanbul
- Greece Extends Metal Wall on Borders with Turkey

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Latest Developments

Human rights activists have called on the Syrian authorities and Damascus governorate to rehabilitate the municipality of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees and to recuperate all the privileges that had been granted to it prior to the decision taken by the Syrian Council of Ministers on November 11, 2018.

The activists said the move will boost the recuperation of vital services in the area and enhance local governance accountability mechanisms.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.



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In another development, residents of AlSabina camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said drinking water has been contaminated by sewage, causing it to become foul and salty.

Families taking shelter near AlHuriya kindergarten said water supplies bumped into the neighborhood on Saturday and Sunday are contaminated with sewage.

An acute water crisis continues to rock AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees. The residents said they have been forced to purchase water from local tanks at steep prices.

The swift price leap, along with the high rates of unemployment and poverty, have added fuel to fire.

The residents' frequent appeals for urgent intervention have gone unheeded by the concerned authorities and officials.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.



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During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

Meanwhile, awareness-raising activities were held by UNRWA in Syria to celebrate the Global Handawshing Day, marked on October 15.

Some 500 Palestinian refugees students enrolled at UNRWA schools in Hums, Hama, and Latakia took part in the event.

The warfare in Syria has also had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear are among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

Along similar lines, Istanbul Governor Ali Yerlikaya said following a meeting held with CSOs that a search sweep targeting the houses and shelters of Palestinian and Syrian refugees will be launched in the next few days.



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The governor said the security sweep aims at inspecting the refugees' personal data and updating old information.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.

In the meantime, Greece's government says it has finalized plans to extend a wall along its northeast border with Turkey, over concerns that migrants may try to stage mass crossings into the European Union country.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said Monday that 26 kilometers (16 miles) of wall would be added to an existing 10-kilometer (six-mile) section in a 63-million-euro (USD 74 million) project due to be completed by the end of April.

A standoff occurred at the border earlier this year after Turkey said it would no longer prevent migrants trying to reach the EU, and tens of thousands tried to cross into Greece.



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The two countries are also at odds over energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean in a dispute that has triggered a dangerous military buildup in the region and fears of conflict.

Four Greek construction companies have been selected to build the new wall and upgrade the existing section of fencing, running along or close to the Evros River, which forms much of the border between the two countries.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the border region on Saturday after a test installation of a section of the new wall.

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees worldwide, at nearly 4 million people, mostly from Syria, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency.