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## التقرير اليومي الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"UNRWA: 120,000 Palestine Refugees Fled War-Torn Syria"

- UNRWA Denies Intent to Deport Palestine Refugees in Syria & Lebanon to Other Countries
- Vigil Held in Northern Syria over New Zealand's Notorious Mosque Massacre
- Severe Humanitarian Crisis Rocks Hums-Based Palestine Refugee Camp



## **Latest Developments**

As many as 120,000 Palestine refugees have fled war-stricken Syria since 2011, including 28,000 to Lebanon, according to Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The Syrian conflict has impacted Palestine refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories, warned Krähenbühl in a March 14 Oped published on UNRWA's official website. "There used to be 560'000 countrywide, mainly in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus and Deraa."



According to the UN official, today, some 440,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria, more than half of them are internally displaced, and nearly all require sustained humanitarian assistance.

Krähenbühl said the situation of 28,000 Palestine refugees who fled to Lebanon and 17,000 others to Jordan remains alarmingly calamitous.



At the same time, UNRWA has denied reports emerging on social media networks about its intent to transfer Palestine refugees taking shelter in Lebanon to other destinations.

In a press statement, the agency said reports about an underway plan to move the refugees elsewhere are "counterfeit" and "groundless", vowing that it will keep up its core essential services for Palestine refugees in its five fields of operations, as mandated by the UN.

UNRWA also said that pieces of news and latest developments about the agency's decisions and activities are exclusively published on and released by its official representatives.

Recently a number of Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon said they have received a note from UNRWA stating that all UNRWA offices received instructions from the New York-headquartered United Nations to start moving Palestine refugees to other countries.

Meanwhile, dozens of families taking shelter in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya refugee camps, north of Syria, joined on Sunday a vigil staged in solidarity with the victims of New Zealand's Friday mosque attack, which took away the lives of at least 50 Muslim worshipers and left dozens of others wounded.

The rally-goers condemned Friday's terrorist attacks and expressed their heartfelt sympathy with the casualties' families, wishing a swift recovery to the injured.



"Such a barbaric act has no religion. This is terrorism in its most horrific faces. The crime stands in sharp contrast to all human rights ethics advocated by the West", said one of the demonstrators.



Australia-born Brenton Tarrant, 28, accused of carrying out attacks on two mosques in Christchurch on Friday that resulted in the deaths of at least 50 people, including children, was charged with murder as he appeared in a district court on Saturday.

Tarrant, described by Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison as an "extremist, right-wing, violent terrorist", expressed admiration for other violent white nationalists and his intention to "create an atmosphere of fear" and to "incite violence" against Muslims.

In the meantime, Palestinians taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, absence of stable financial resources, the sharp shortage in gas and fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.



Dozens of Palestinian refugees were pronounced dead in the camp since the outburst of bloody hostilities in Syria. According to AGPS data, 234 Palestinians sheltered in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been secretly held in Syrian state dungeons.

