



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



### "Palestinians of Syria in Jordan Call for Humanitarian Action"

- Residents of AlSabina Camp Denounce Blackmailing by Bus Drivers
- Syrian Security Forces Ease Security Restrictions Around AlSayeda Zeinab Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Faysal Ghazi Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8<sup>th</sup> Year
- 56 Migrants Pushed Back from Cyprus

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## Latest Developments

Director of UNRWA operations in Jordan Marta Lorenzo met with representatives of the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) in Jordan to discuss the situation of Palestinian refugees fleeing the war-torn country to Jordan.

Speaking on behalf of AGPS, Palestinian activist Mohamed Balout sounded the alarm over the discrepancy between the legal system and UNRWA programs on the one hand, and the dire situation of Palestinian refugees, on the hand.

He added that Palestinians of Syria have been denied access to the local labor market in Jordan and to healthcare services at public hospitals. Those who illegally entered the country have also been subjected to daily fines.

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, said UNRWA in a fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”.

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.



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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.

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.

In another development, residents of AlSabina camp have denounced the exorbitant transportation charges imposed by bus drivers in and around the area.

The residents said transportation fees are three times higher than the price set by the government.

Activists have called on the residents to report cases of price inflation by bus drivers to local authorities.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aid, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities. Frequent water and power outages have made the situation far worse.

Along similar lines, the Syrian security forces have reportedly lightened security measures in and around AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees.



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Eye-witnesses told AGPS that Syrian security forces removed the sand barriers pitched around the area. Access roads will be reopened gradually.

Earlier this year, Syrian security forces fenced off access roads connecting Babila, Hjeira, and AlSayeda Zeinab towns with sand barriers and without prior notice under the security pretext. The main thoroughfare had been kept open for emergency cases or security purposes.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Faysal Ghazi Ali has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian prisons for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Faysal, born in 1990, was arrested on March 21, 2013. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

Meanwhile, a boat with 56 migrants on board was spotted off the coast of Cyprus on Sunday. The Cypriot authorities checked the documents of people on board at sea and then asked the group to return to Lebanon from where they had set off.

The boat, reportedly carrying 56 migrants (39 men, seven women and ten children), was spotted about 16 nautical miles south of Cyprus' Cape Greco on Sunday, May 16.

According to the Cyprus Mail, the Cypriot authorities sent two coast guard vessels to the area. One of the boats had nurses and translators on board. The coast guard coordinated their operation with the Joint Rescue Coordination Center.



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Officers from the coast guard checked the documents of the migrants on board the boat, who told them they had set sail from the town of Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

The Cyprus Mail reported that the boat had initially tried to head for the Cypriot port of Protaras but was "denied entry to the Republic" and was told to turn back to Lebanon.

The German news agency dpa, quoting Cypriot state broadcaster RIK, said that the return was the third case of Cyprus telling migrants to return to Lebanon in the last eight months. Two weeks ago, on May 4, the Lebanese authorities reported that they had stopped 51 Syrians from crossing to Lebanon.

The nationality of those on board has not yet been made clear, reported dpa. Cyprus' Interior Minister Nikos Nouris stated once again, according to dpa, that Lebanon is a safe third country, and, as such, migrants can be returned there without problem.