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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Palestinians Pronounced Dead in Syria since Conflict Outbreak 4,116

- **Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Facing Ambivalent Legal Status**
- **UN Delegation Pays Visit to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees**
- **Residents Warn of Child Abductions on the Rise in Syria's Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees**



Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of 4,116 Palestinian refugees, including 493 women and girls, in Syria's war as the country's fragile stateless minority struggles to survive in the deadly eleven-year conflict.

Yarmouk Camp topped the list with 1,490 casualties.

Scores of Palestinian refugees have also been left wounded, including dozens who have undergone limb amputation or eye loss.

Over 80% percent of the victims are civilians, including more than 250 Palestinian children. The preliminary cause of death was regime bombing followed by sniper fire and death under torture by the regime.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed in the Syrian war, mostly by the regime and its powerful allies, while millions more have been displaced both inside and outside of Syria.

Syria is home to 12 Palestinian refugee camps, three of them unofficial, according to the UN Palestinian refugee agency.

Before the deadly conflict began in 2011 there were around 560,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria, descendants of those who were expelled or fled during the establishment of Israel in 1948 in the events of the Nakba.

Since fighting began, more than 85,000 Palestinians have fled Syria to Europe while tens of thousands more have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a frail legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

Palestinians from Syria (PRS) in Egypt have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.

Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are



granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, PRS are left on their own.

At the same time, the number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt has dramatically shrunk back over the past three years.

AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt is estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt, who fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operations, to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

In another development, a delegation of UNRWA Advisory Commission members visited UNRWA in Syria on the 18 and 19 June 2022, the first such visit since the conflict started in the country over a decade ago.

The delegation included Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, and the European Union was accompanied by Leni Stenseth, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General, and Amany Michael-Ebye, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Syria.

Visiting the Yarmouk, Sbeineh, and Khan Eshieh camps in Damascus, the UNRWA emergency cash assistance centre and the Damascus Training Centre (for Technical and Vocational Education), the delegation was briefed on UNRWA achievements, challenges, priorities and the growing needs of Palestine refugees in Syria amid a deteriorating economy, rising inflation, and rapid increases in the prices of basic commodities. They also listened to a briefing on the Agency's phased response plans for two camps severely affected by the conflict, namely Yarmouk in Damascus and Ein el Tal in Aleppo.

"UNRWA is urgently seeking funding to rehabilitate its installations in those camps, to be able to resume essential services for Palestine refugees who have desperately returned to the camp



to damaged homes, escaping rising costs of rent where they were displaced," Amany said.

UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General, Leni Stenseth, expressed gratitude for the commitment of the governments of UNRWA Advisory Commission representatives, highlighting that the visit will help the participants to see first-hand the situation of Palestine refugees, the need to rehabilitate UNRWA installations in devastated Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps, and the support required from donors.

"We deeply count on donors' generous contributions to meet the enormous needs of the Palestine refugee community in Syria and to rehabilitate Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps. Without your help we will not have the financial capabilities to rehabilitate the UNRWA installations in the camp. Thanks to your ongoing support, various critical UNRWA services have been sustained to Palestine refugees in Syria," Stenseth said.

In his presentation, Amany said: "Like Syrians, Palestine refugees struggle to cope with the impacts of protracted crisis, displacement and myriad other challenges. They rely entirely on UNRWA services and cash assistance. UNRWA urgently needs sustainable funding to support the resilience of the refugees".

During the visit to Yarmouk, the delegation heard first-hand testimonies of UNRWA staff about health services provided during the most challenging circumstances. They visited the Agency's destroyed installations in the camp, where UNRWA plans to carry out rehabilitation works to resume its services for those who returned, including students who currently attend schools outside Yarmouk.

While in Sbeineh camp, where UNRWA was able to rehabilitate its installations in 2017 and re-establish services to support dignified returns of refugees, the delegation toured the Agency's health and community centres, where they interacted with beneficiaries and learned about their challenges, but also about their positive feedback for the resumption of UNRWA services in the camp in 2017.



In the Khan Eshieh camp, where Palestine refugees have gradually returned starting from 2016, the delegation toured an UNRW-rehabilitated community centre and a school.

In the Damascus Training Centre, the delegation received briefings on the UNRWA technical and vocational education and training programme to prepare young Palestine refugees for the job market. "Investing in youth means investing in the future of an entire generation," Amany said.

Palestine refugee beneficiaries and UNRWA front line staff at the emergency cash assistance centre underlined that UNRWA cash assistance is a lifeline for Palestine refugees who face acute and growing needs resulting from the protracted crisis in Syria, compounded with the challenges created by COVID-19 and the unprecedented economic crisis.

The delegation also met the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Imran Riza, who updated the members with the humanitarian situation and most urgent needs in the country, UN priorities and humanitarian response in Syria and appealed to them to provide urgently-needed funding to support the critical work of the UN in Syria.

Expressing their full support and commitment to UNRWA work for Palestine refugees, delegation members promised to pass on the messages to their governments. Their support is needed to make sure UNRWA services continue in an increasingly challenging environment.

Meanwhile, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to sound alarm bells over the simmering child abductions in the area.

Over recent years, several civilians, including children, have gone missing in Jaramana Camp. Palestinian child Zein Ahmad Taameh disappeared from AlAmeen Street in Jaramana Camp on Monday, April 1, on his way back home from Palestine School, run by UNRWA.

Three-year-old Palestinian child Teym Samer Jamil Surur, a resident of Sakhnin Street in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq, also disappeared on April 18. His family continues to appeal for information over his condition and whereabouts.



According to AGPS data, over 350 Palestinian refugees have gone missing in war-torn Syria, mostly from Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders among Palestinian refugee children in Syria.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.