



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



"3 Years after Syrian Regime Bombarded Yarmouk Camp...Civilian Bodies Still Trapped Under Rubble"

- Water Pumped into AlSabina Camp following 10 Month Blackout
- Palestinian Refugee Esam Sharfi Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 7th Year
- UNRWA to Delay Cash Aid Delivery to Palestinians of Syria
- Food Aid Items Distributed in Handarat Camp

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Latest Developments

Civilian bodies have reportedly been trapped under rubble in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, three years after the Syrian fighter jets and Russian forces on April 19, 2018 showered the camp with bombs and missiles.

Local sources told AGPS that dozens of bodies are still stranded under the debris of destroyed homes and facilities.

The bodies of Abdul Hadi ALGhoutani, Basima Ghoutani, Haifa ALHaj, Mohamed Hadaba, and Enshirah ALShaabi have been stranded under rubble in Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park, in Yarmouk.

AGPS calls on the international human rights institutions to immediately step in and pressurize the Syrian government to green-light taking out Palestinian dead bodies from underneath the debris.

In another development, water has been pumped into AlSabina camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, after the Power Ministry installed a new transformer to operate the main water pump.

Over recent months, civilians have lashed out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the local municipality regarding their calls for supplying the area with power generators and filling main water tanks.



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Water has been frequently cut off for over 10 months in AlSabina refugee camp, forcing civilians to purchase water from privately-owned tanks.

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 aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

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.

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.



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It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Esam Ahmad Sharfi has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for seven years running.

Esam, born in 1961, was arrested on January 5, 2014 by Syrian security forces deployed at Ali AlWahsh checkpoint, in Rif Dimashq.

In the meantime, activists said UNRWA is expected to delay the transfer of cash grants for Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon.

Speaking with AGPS, a Palestinian refugee said UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Lebanon as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", UNRWA said that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.



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Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA's factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, the local committee of Handarat camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, distributed food baskets and children clothes to vulnerable families sheltered in the area.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Handarat camp have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.



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Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.