



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



"Palestinian Refugee Killed in Syrian Desert"

- UNRWA Conducts Building Damage Assessment in Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Hails EU's Renewed Financial Support for its Operations
- Thieves Terrorize Palestinian Refugee Camp of Khan Eshieh

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Yazen Mohamed AlSayed, raised in Syria's AlSabina Camp, was killed as he fought alongside Syrian regime forces.

Yazen is a member of the pro-regime Liwaa AlQuds battalion in AlSakhna area, in the Syrian desert.

Calls continue to be circulated by Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian government forces, to push for military conscription.

Activists have accused the armed group of forcing Palestinian youths taking shelter in refugee camps across Syria to join pro-government military squads, taking profit from their dire economic conditions.

Nearly 10,000 gunmen are enlisted at Liwaa AlQuds brigade, among them 800 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in refugee camps across the Syrian territories.

AGPS has kept record of the death of over 90 Palestinian refugees as they fought alongside Liwaa AlQuds forces since 2013.

In another development, a specialized ad hoc committee appointed by UNRWA showed up in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, and started earmarking houses and commercial structures.



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The committee will assess the condition of buildings and categorize them in habitable and non-habitable.

Civilians expressed hope that the committee's work is a prelude for cash aid by the Agency in order to assist the residents in reconstruction works, saying a similar initiative was made by UNRWA in 1956 for holders of housing permits and in Palestinian refugees camps in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) welcomed on Monday the European Union's renewed financial support for its vital operations that serve around five million Palestinian refugees.

"UNRWA warmly welcomes the EU's renewed support for its core operations and also welcomes the European parliament's initial commitment to increase the Agency's annual contribution for next year," said UNRWA spokesman Sami Mshasha in a statement quoted by WAFA news agency.

"UNRWA looks forward to final and formal approval to increase our annual funding from the European Union."

The UNRWA spokesman said that the decision to increase funding "is a testament to the historic partnership between the European Union and UNRWA over five decades and to the unparalleled role the Agency plays in the lives of millions of Palestine refugees and underscores the need for sustainable financial mechanisms for it."



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The EU earlier this month disbursed a vital €92 million contribution in support of UNRWA's operations.

EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, said: "We remain determined to support UNRWA both politically and financially, including by providing long term reliability. The Agency plays an essential role in providing vital services to millions of Palestine refugees and stabilizing the region."

"Our support to UNRWA is not only a humanitarian duty; it also helps to keep alive the prospects of sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians. UNRWA's services remain key to contribute to a viable negotiated two-State solution, including a fair, agreed and realistic solution to the refugee issue", he added.

The Palestine refugee agency has been under attack by Israel and its lobbying groups in an effort to discredit it and end its operations under various pretexts as a step toward liquidating the Palestinian refugee issue that started in 1948 when Israel was created in Palestine.

The former US administration under Donald Trump, under pressure from Israel, has cut off all aid to UNRWA before aid was partially restored by the current administration of Joe Biden. Before ending its aid, the US was the largest contributor to UNRWA with over \$350 million annually.

Currently, five million Palestine refugees are serviced by UNRWA's health, education and social services programs in the West Bank,



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including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

In the meantime, activists from Khan Eshieh camp said thieves have been burglarizing homes and stealing power cables from the camp.

The residents held local authorities and pro-regime militias responsible for the increasing property-theft and burglary targeting commercial stores and civilian property.

Over recent months, power cables have been stolen from abandoned houses and alleyways in Khan Eshieh refugee camp, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power blackouts.

Last week, Syrian police arrested three wanted criminals involved in the murder of an elderly Palestinian man in the camp. Following preliminary investigations and interrogation of witnesses, police found out that the murderer showed up at the victim's shop shortly before he killed him. The killer confessed that other people helped him in armed robbery attack on the shop. The victim—Adnan Mousa Khuza'i, nicknamed Abu Samir—was beaten on his head to death while he was taking a siesta outside of his flea store.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp



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was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.