



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

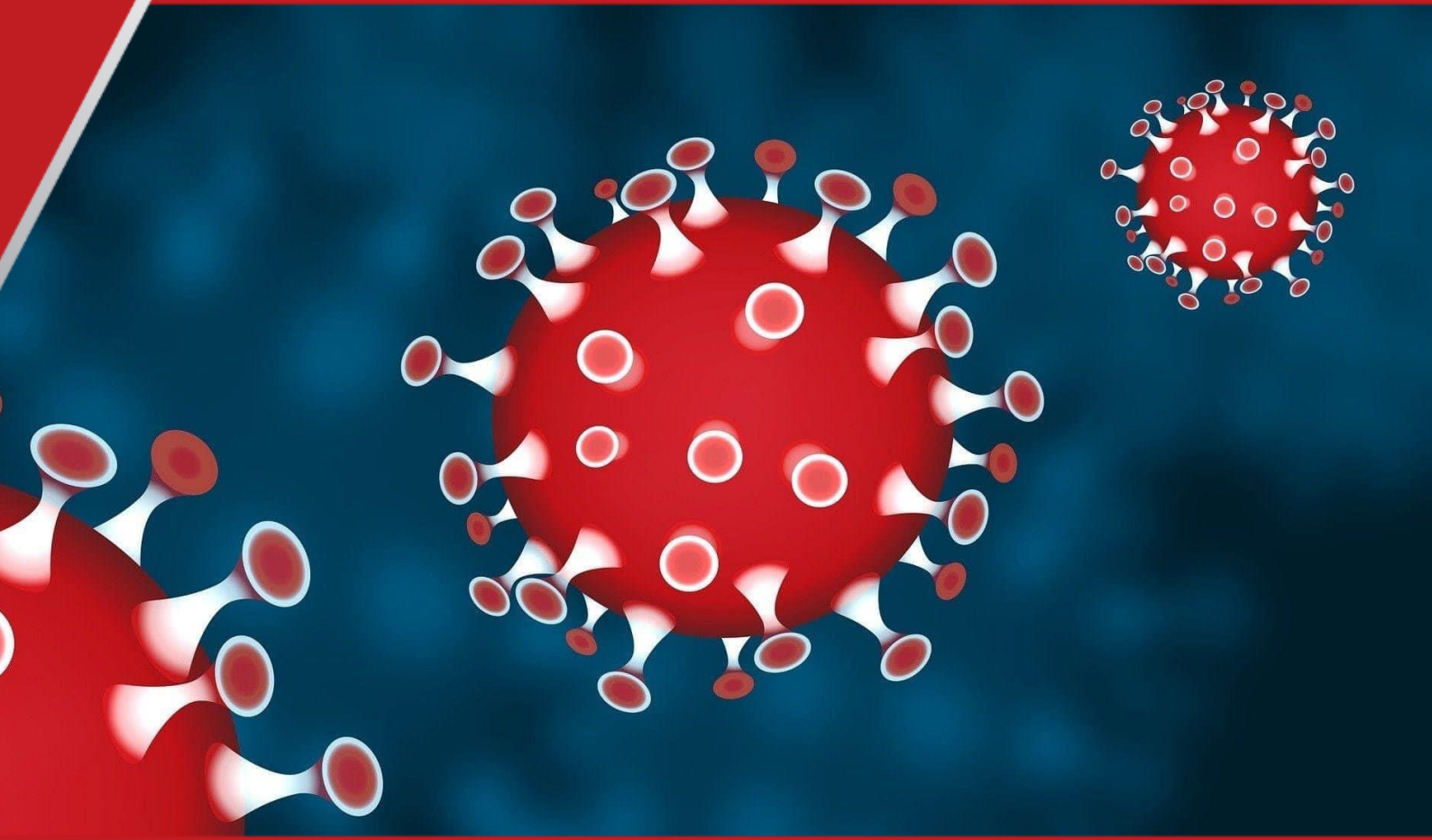
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"3 More Coronavirus-Related Deaths Reported in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees"

- 83 Palestinian Residents of AlRaml Camp Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons
- Humanitarian Condition Exacerbated by Power Blackout in Khan Eshieh Camp
- Khan Dannun Camp Gripped with Water Crisis

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Latest Developments

Three elderly Palestinian refugees have succumbed to COVID-19 over the past few days in AlNeirab Camp, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

Over recent weeks, dozens of refugees have been pronounced dead, bringing the virus death toll to over 200.

The residents have expressed deep concern over their children's safety due to the absence of anti-coronavirus drives and hygiene kit in the area.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have increasingly been reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

A few months earlier, AGPS also warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.



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In another development, AGPS data indicates that 83 Palestinian refugees from AlRaml Camp, in Latakia, have been enduring unknown fates in Syrian government prisons.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to disclose the fate of hundreds of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons.

AGPS believes that the arbitrary internment of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria amounts to a war crime.

AGPS has kept record of several cases where Palestinians have been kidnapped at government checkpoints or during assaults carried out by government troops on Palestinian refugee camps and shelters. In most such cases, the detainees' families receive their relatives' bodies from a military or government hospital while wrapped up in a plastic bag or in a blood-tainted piece of cloth.

Meanwhile, residents of Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees said power installations have been inoperative for over ten hours daily, exacerbating even further the squalid humanitarian condition in the camp.

Most of civilian homes have run out of potable water as water wells have repeatedly gone out of operation due to frequent power outages

The families have called on the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) and UNRWA to take urgent measures regarding the power and water crises.



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Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the ten-year warfare.

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 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.

Along similar lines, residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian refugees in Rif Dimashq have set off alarm bells over the acute water crisis which has been ongoing for years across a number of residential neighborhoods.



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Civilians have been forced to purchase drinking water at exorbitant prices.

The residents said the main water tank in the area has been unevenly distributed, calling on the government institutions and UNRWA to urgently step in and take serious measures in response to the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage laborers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.

The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Two UNRWA schools premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.



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The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure, affecting the electric network and the sewerage system. The camp suffers from sporadic sewage blockages due to the increased pressure on the existent sewerage system, which was designed for only 10,000 inhabitants, while there are now significantly more. Water supply resources have also been affected and the camp suffers from water shortages, especially during the summer months.

Many school children have dropped out or work after school hours to support their families. The camp also suffers from a high incidence of inherited diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anemia.