



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



"In Memorandum to Guterres, Palestinian CSOs Call for Urgent Action Regarding UNRWA Aid Cut"

- Return of Displaced Families to Yarmouk Camp Delayed
- Northern Syria Displacement Camps Ravaged by Heavy Rainfalls
- Retired Palestinian Teachers Honored in Syria

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Latest Developments

The Association of Civil Society Organizations of Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon has denounced a recent decision by UNRWA to cut aid for Palestinians from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon, saying the decision will result in tragic consequences for PRS and force hundreds of them to board “death boats” to Europe.

In a memorandum to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the CSOs said 28,000 Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Lebanon to seek safe shelters for their children have been enduring dire humanitarian condition for over 10 years due to their precarious legal status and lack of access to basic services.

The memorandum added that 8,700 PRS families in Lebanon have been living in distress following the latest decision by UNRWA to suspend rental allowances.

The COSs called for urgent action to pressurize UNRWA to cancel the decision and rather seek alternative funding channels to be able to keep up its services for vulnerable Palestinian refugees. Host countries should also assume their responsibilities in this regard.

The statement warned that the decision would result in increasing rates of poverty, school dropouts, child labor, and, as a consequence, juvenile delinquency.



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Over recent days, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have rallied outside of UNRWA offices in Sidon, Tripoli, Central AlBekaa, and Beirut to protest the Agency's decision to reduce cash aid for Palestinian refugee families from Syria (PRS).

The protesters have strongly condemned the decision which they said is a sign of apathy regarding the abject humanitarian condition already endured by the Palestinian refugee community in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories.

They added that the decision is also a serious breach of UNRWA's humanitarian mission as mandated by the UN and the Agency's promise to assist Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operation, including Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees threatened to escalate protest moves and set up sit-in tents outside of UNRWA offices to pressurize the Agency to cancel the decision and work on their unconditional return to their homes from which they have been displaced by the Israeli occupation since 1948.

Last week, UNRWA said in a statement that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered Palestinian refugee family from Syria (PRS) will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every PRS will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD two times a year. UNRWA will suspend its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.



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The new measures will be put into effect as of January 1, 2022.

In another development, the Municipality of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, has reportedly delayed receiving applications from families wishing to return to the camp.

This comes days after local authorities promised to facilitate the families' return to Yarmouk Camp at the earliest possible date.

Palestinian refugees who headed for the municipality to submit their demands have been told that applications will be received in the new year.

Recently, activists have called on Palestinian refugee families to submit applications at the municipality of Yarmouk Camp in order to return to the area and retrieve their property.

Activists have also called on the residents to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria.



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In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In another development, heavy rains that rocked northwestern Syria have exposed the substandard displacement camps set up by humanitarian organizations to shelter displaced families.

Camps made up of cement blocks have sustained serious cracks and material damage. The poor sewerage and frail infrastructure have made the situation quite more alarming.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.



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Some 819 Palestinian families have sought shelter in Idlib, including 226 families in the city center, 152 in Atama, 60 in Akrebat village, and 60 more in Sarmada town. 50 families are taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

Meanwhile, the General Union of Palestinian Teachers honored a number of retired instructors from Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

The list includes instructor Badriya Hasan Taamari who won the world's best teacher award.

The event marks the Palestinian Teacher's Day, celebrated annually on December 14 to pay tribute to Palestinian teachers who have served their students with extraordinary effort despite years of protracted displacement, unending occupation, and deadly shelling.

More than ten years into the conflict and more than one year into the pandemic, Palestinian teachers in displacement camps across war-torn Syria have made their best to ensure that their students' access to education never wavers, even in the most unpredictable and trying circumstances, in some of the most challenging contexts of war, blockade and poverty.