



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



**"UN: 40% of Palestinian Refugees in Syria Internally Displaced"**

- Palestinian Refugees Displaced from Handarat Camp Launch Distress Calls
- Palestinian Refugee Khaled Yousef Shehab Forcibly Disappeared in Syria
- Family Appeals for Information over Palestinian Refugee in Syria

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## Latest Developments

Protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria, according to UNRWA's "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021".

UNRWA said that in Syria, the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.

In 2020, living conditions deteriorated further as a result of an economic crisis, leading to an increase in prices including of the most basic commodities.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have lost their jobs in the warfare and hundreds more have been wondering in the streets as they rummage around for livelihoods to feed their starved families.

The crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of PRS families are unable to meet their basic needs.



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Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees displaced from Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, to Latakia city have been confronted with increased hardship due to protracted displacement and the loss of livelihoods.

The situation is made worse by the socio-economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic and the price leap.

Some 100 families displaced from Handarat Camp to Latakia called on UNRWA, the Syrian authorities, and international humanitarian organizations to facilitate their return to the camp and work on reconstructing destroyed houses and vital facilities.

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



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other areas in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

UN data indicates that Handarat camp (also known as Ein El-Tal camp) is on a hillside 13km north-east of the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic. The camp was established in 1962 on an area of 0.16 square kilometers. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who fled from northern Palestine.

Ein El Tal camp was once home to around 7,000 residents. Around three hundred families moved to newly constructed houses in Ein El-Tal from Neirab camp under a 2003 project to reduce overcrowding in Neirab.

In April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.

Meanwhile, the family of Palestinian refugee Khaled Yousef Shehab continues to appeal for information over their relative's condition and whereabouts.





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Khaled, an aluminum carpenter, was arrested by Syrian security forces on February 14, 2021 at checkpoint near the main entrance to Yarmouk refugee camp, in Damascus.

An ex-prisoner told the family that Khaled is being secretly held in the Palestine Branch custody.

At the same time, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Shahada Ibrahim, born in 1989, disappeared on Monday, February 22, on his way back home after he marched in the funeral procession of Palestinian refugee Issa Diab in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq.

The family said their relative suffers psychological disorders.

333 Palestinian refugees, including 37 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare. Most of those who have disappeared in the country are residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Activists have accused pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.