



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



"557,000 Palestine Refugees Registered With GAPAR in Syria"

- Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria Displacement Camps Struggling for Survival
- Residents of AlNeirab Refugee Camp Denounce Poor Infrastructure
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Fahd Abboud Forcibly Disappeared in Syria
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Join Humanitarian Campaign in Lebanon

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Latest Developments

The General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) said the number of Palestinian refugees it registered in Syria until January 5, 2020 is estimated at 557,452, including 277,960 female refugees and 279,492 male refugees.

Data by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) indicates that of the 560,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria, an estimated 450,000 remain in the country. Almost 280,000 are internally displaced and 43,000 are trapped in hard-to-reach or inaccessible locations.

Prolonged displacement, unchecked inflation, rising unemployment rates and loss of property have led to impoverishment and, thus, a greater need for UNRWA support. Over 95 per cent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria are in critical need of humanitarian assistance, which comprises cash, food and non-food items.

In another development, displaced Palestinian refugees have rallied in Deir Ballout camp, north of Syria, protesting their deteriorating living conditions in the poorly-equipped facility and the apathy maintained by Turkey's Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, AFAD.

The refugees called on AFAD, UNRWA, and all other concerned parties to take up their responsibilities regarding the squalid conditions they have been struggling with in the poverty-stricken area.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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They further urged the international human rights institutions, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Turkish authorities to take immediate steps in response to their appeals.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

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.

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



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

Along similar lines, residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced the poor road infrastructure and absence of road maintenance in the area.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in



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

winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In the meantime, the family of Palestinian refugee Mohamed Fahd Aboud has appealed to the international human rights organizations to work on disclosing the fate of their missing relative.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, Kasem's family said they last contacted him in August 2013. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).



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Meanwhile, Palestinians from Syria have joined “From You and For You” campaign launched by CSOs in Lebanon following a meeting held on January 23, 2021 in the headquarters of the Furqan Association, in Ein Hilweh refugee camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

The humanitarian drive seeks to collect in-kind and cash aid to vulnerable people and cash-stripped families in Lebanon.

According to information collected by UNRWA, more than 80 per cent of PRS indicate that the Agency’s cash assistance is their main source of income. 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment. In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families). UNRWA said PRS’s vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency’s monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents.

The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.



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