



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 Refugees Rally in Northern Syria over Squalid Conditions"

- Official: Return to Yarmouk Camp Dependent on Infrastructure Rehabilitation
- Palestinian Refugees Deeply Concerned over Simmering Tensions in Syria Displacement Camp
- Fears Mount over Increasing Coronavirus Cases in Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp

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Latest Developments

Displaced Palestinian refugees have rallied in Deir Ballout camp, north of Syria, protesting their deteriorating living conditions in the poorly-equipped facility.

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.

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.



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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 taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

In another development, director of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said the return of displaced families to Yarmouk Camp has been taking place at a steady pace under the supervision of Damascus Governorate

He said the return of families is contingent upon reconstruction of vital facilities and rehabilitation of water, power and sewerage networks.

He said 480 families are currently sheltered in the camp. Some 80 families will return to the camp in the next few days.

Recently, dozens of Palestinian families presented their ownership documents at a government checkpoint near the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, so as to get permits to return to the area and retrieve their houses and property.



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Once documents are submitted, a security officer accompanies the resident to his/her house to check whether the building is habitable. In case the house is uninhabitable, the return request will be turned down pending reconstruction.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

A number of activists have also warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

Unofficial statistics indicate that some 200 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018.

The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee families continue to sound the alarm over the security mayhem rocking AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

Overnight property-theft and burglary attempts targeting civilian homes have increasingly been reported in the camp.



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

Along similar lines, activists in Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees have called on the residents to take precautionary measures, including social distancing, hand-washing, and mask-wearing, in order to help curtail coronavirus cases in the area.



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Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees have tested positive for coronavirus in Khan Eshieh Camp. Fatalities were reported.

AGPS continues to urge UNRWA and the Syrian Health Ministry to provide the Palestinian refugee community in the war-ravaged country with hygiene kit and relief items in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

AGPS also stresses the need to supply Palestinian refugee camps with medicines, detergents, and disinfectants in order to help the displaced communities defend themselves against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

AGPS is deeply concerned that the lack of transparency maintained by the Syrian government regarding the pandemic will result in a catastrophic situation in displacement camps, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

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