



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

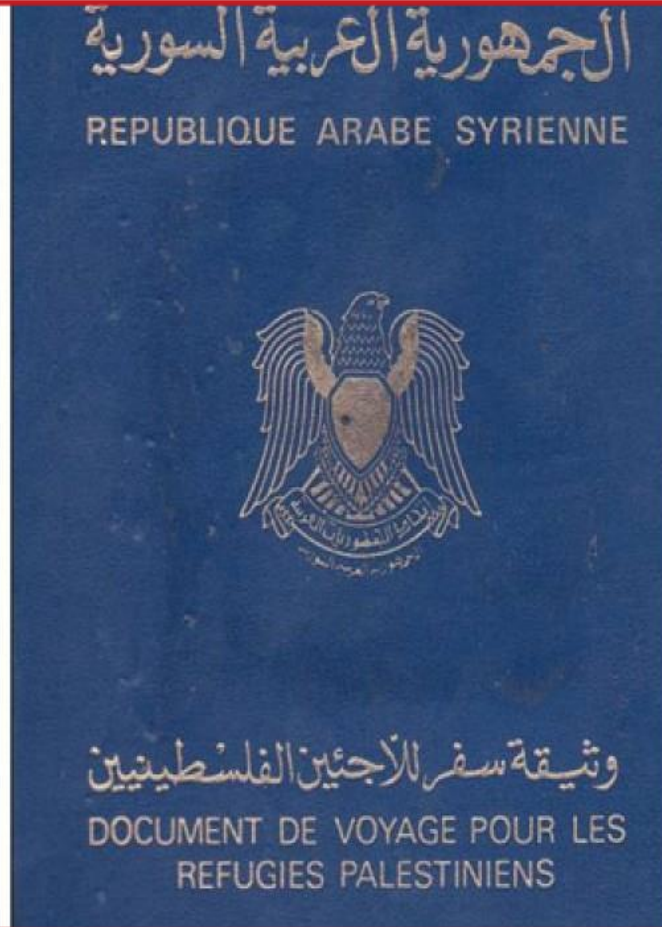
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinians of Syria Denounce Corruption by Passport Issuance Authorities"

- Palestinian Refugees in Jaramana Camp Grappling With Price Leap
- Residents of Deraa Camp Call For Reconstruction Works
- Increasing Coronavirus Cases Reported Northwest of Syria

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees have denounced the complicated red tape pursued by the migration and passports department run by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in Ein Kersh, in Damascus, south of Syria.

An AGPS reporter said the platform established by the Syrian government to allegedly help curtail corruption has only made the situation worse.

A refugee told AGPS that the platform suffers chronic technical problems and operates for no more than five minutes in the morning. “Getting an appointment is almost impossible due to internet and power blackouts”, he said.

A number of staffers reportedly ask for a sum of money of 100USD to give an appointment as they have booked earlier appointments using fake names. To issue a passport for a relative abroad a sum of 200 USD is required. Consular fees also cost 300USD to be paid through the Commercial Bank of Syria.

Urgently-needed passports are issued in exchange for 800 USD. Another 200 USD is paid to the staffer.

Director of the migration and passports department Major General Khaled Hadid stated that 12 people were arrested in 2021 for bribery. The head of an immigration branch along with a number



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of staff members, in addition to 23 policemen and an officer were brought before court for bribery.

In another development, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq province, continue to rail against the swift hike in the prices of vital food and non-food items.

The residents said merchants and shopkeepers have been taking profit from the absence of control staff to manipulate prices and supplies.

Local activists have called for serious action by the concerned authorities, particularly the Syrian Ministry of Supply and Domestic Commerce, in order to impeach market abusers and dispatch control staff to regulate prices and control supply and demand.

Over recent years, residents of Jaramana Camp have launched cries for help over the dire socio-economic conditions, high unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, steep rental fees, and chronic water crisis rocking the area.

Meanwhile, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in partnership with UNRWA carried out maintenance works to extend the sewerage line in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

The move is the first of its kind since the signing of the reconciliation agreement in 2021.



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All the way through Syria's eleven-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

In the meantime, Syria Humanitarian Response Coordinators group has warned of a humanitarian crisis in northwestern Syria due to the coronavirus outbreak and absence of medical assistance.

Over the past 24 hours, more than 380 cases have been confirmed, in the highest daily record reported since November 2021.



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The group called for increasing anti-coronavirus drives and distributing hygiene kit in the area in order to protect the vulnerable residents.

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.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of coronavirus add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse.