



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



"On Holy Eid, Palestinians in Northern Syria Enduring Squalid Conditions"

- Palestinian Refugees in Handarat Camp Deprived of Joy of Holy Eid
- Palestinian Children in Syria Displacement Camp Celebrate Eid
- Gifts Distributed to Children in Jaramana Camp

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Latest Developments

As the holy Eid AlFitr (Fast-breaking festival) has been celebrated by Muslims across the globe, Palestinian refugees in northern Syria have been deprived of the joy ordinarily sparked by such an occasion.

In a place where neither vital facilities nor leisure amenities are made available, the advent of Eid meant that dozens of displaced Palestinian and Syrian families spend the occasion in their poorly-equipped tents.

“The war took away our families and friends from us” Khaled, a Palestinian refugee displaced from Rif Dimashq, told AGPS. “Now we’re sharing our pain and joy with our new friends and neighbors in the displacement camp”.

Another refugee—Hamza—said: “Eid comes in the midst of a darkness and sorrow sparked by displacement, despair, and economic hardship”.

Hamza, who was displaced from Khan Eshieh, expressed his wish to meet his father in the camp and visit his mother’s tomb.

Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped tents and denied access to vital facilities and services.



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Along similar lines, live photos circulated on social media show the streets of Handarat camp as being completely forsaken during the Eid days. Neither children nor women show up across residential neighborhoods.

Speaking with AGPS, a resident said, with tears in his eyes: “Our children cannot go outdoors. They received neither clothes nor toys to celebrate the occasion. Our forebears witnessed the true meaning of dispossession and displacement following the Nakba of 1948, when they were forced out of their homes by the Zionist militias. Now, our children have been deprived of childhood joy and denied their basic human rights”.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

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 other zones 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.



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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, a performing arts troupe in Daraa camp for Palestinian refugees carried out leisure activists and artistic performances in the area in an attempt to tone down the psychologically depressing situation endured by children and civilians.

Founded in 1950-1951, Daraa Camp is home to over 650 displaced Palestinian families. As many as 4,500 families used to take shelter in the camp prior to the outbreak of the conflict in 2011.



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In the meantime, volunteers from the so-called “White-blood cells” team distributed gifts and sweets for children sheltered in Jaramana camp on the occasion of Eid AlFitr.

Jaramana camp is 8km from Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. The camp was established in 1948.

Before the start of the conflict in 2011, there were over 18,000 Palestine refugees living in Jaramana camp. During the Syrian crisis, the number of Palestine refugees in the camp and the surrounding area increased to 49,000 due to an influx of displaced Palestine refugees from other areas, including the camp of Yarmouk. As a result, Jaramana has become one of the most densely populated areas of Damascus.