



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



"Palestine Ambassador: Families' Return to Yarmouk Camp Indefinite"

- Over 600 Palestinian Families Enduring Abject Conditions in Syria's Daraa Camp
- UNRWA Commissioner: Budget Deficit Stands at \$200 Million
- Swedish Authorities Backtrack on Decision to Deport Migrants with Hungary-Processed Fingerprints

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Latest Developments

Director-General of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said displaced families should not be misled into believing that they will gain access to their homes in Yarmouk Camp sometime soon.

Speaking from Yarmouk Camp, Abdul Hadi said the families' return remains indefinite and that several buildings remain uninhabitable and risk to collapse at any possible moment.

He quoted the Damascus Governor as stating that civilian buildings need to be carefully inspected before families are allowed to return to the camp.



He added that the Syrian government green-lighted debris-clearance in residential alleyways.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command, and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.



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Scores of other 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 Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following the military 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 in the warfare.

A few months earlier, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Meanwhile, over 600 Palestinian families taking shelter in Daraa Camp, south of Syria, have been subjected to dire conditions due to the lack of vital services, including health care, and medicine shortage.





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Reporting from southern Syria, an AGPS correspondent said UNRWA's clinic has not been reconstructed yet, leaving hundreds of civilians without life-saving medical treatment.

Dozens of sick and elderly civilians face mountainous journeys trying to reach AlKashef area for treatment.

In another development, UNRW's Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl said UNRWA's budget deficient now stands at \$200 million,

Speaking during a press conference at the agency's regional headquarters in Gaza City, Krahenbuhl said: "The current budget deficit of the Agency's budget is about \$200 million."

"We know that we will be subjected to many attacks and criticism, but we will continue to provide services to Palestinian refugees, as mandated by the United Nations, and we will never allow any attempt to destroy the legitimacy of refugees," added the UN official.





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Krahenbuhl stressed that UNRWA is making efforts to “recruit financial support to continue providing services.”

“We will make every effort to continue to provide food assistance, especially here in Gaza. As I said before, we need about \$60 million to buy food,” he vowed. “We hope that we will keep schools open next year.”

Krahenbuhl also pointed out that 42 countries and organizations helped UNRWA last year to overcome its financial crisis.

Israel publicly demands that UNRWA be terminated, and the current US administration has suspended its financial support for the agency, which has caused a major funding crisis.

In the meantime, the Swedish Migration Office issued a decision ruling that asylum applications by migrants whose fingerprints were taken in Hungary be considered. Sometime earlier, authorities rebuffed such applications submitted by migrants with fingerprints taken in Hungary and Italy.

The EU registers fingerprints of asylum seekers in a system called the EuroDac. The system, which was established in 2003, helps determine which EU member state is responsible for processing the application of an asylum seeker.

According to the Dublin Regulation, the first country that an asylum seeker entered is ultimately responsible for an individual's asylum application. When an asylum seeker enters this first country, their fingerprints are taken and even though they might have entered another country later, the fingerprints remain in the



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EU wide EuroDac system that can tell authorities what the first country of entry was. The system is hosted by the European Commission in Brussels.

The fingerprints can also tell whether an asylum seeker illegally transited through another EU member state. If an asylum seeker winds up in another EU country than that of where they originally had their finger prints taken, they may be sent back to their original country of entry.