



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



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"Deraa Camp Families Appeal for Information over Forcibly Disappeared Relatives in Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Youths Fall Prey to Drug Consumption in War-Torn Syria
- New Residential Apartments Built for Displaced Palestinians North of Syria
- UNRWA Establishes Aid Distribution Point at Jaramana Camp School
- Palestinian Girl from Syria Garneres High Scores in Germany

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa Camp, south of Syria, continue to urge the Syrian regime to release all prisoners and disclose the condition and whereabouts of victims of enforced disappearance and secret incarceration.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS also urges the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS is deeply concerned over an unabated outbreak of coronavirus in Syrian prisons, at a time when the deadly virus continues to claim the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

There are growing fears that a large outbreak in prisons could be particularly catastrophic.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who test positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.

The Syrian authorities and all concerned parties should also take precautionary measures and enhance captivity conditions to rein in a tragic propagation of the virus in jail.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee youths continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the eleven-year warfare in Syria, amidst a deadly pandemic outbreak.



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Palestinian refugee youths (aged 12 – 30) make up nearly 30% of the Palestinians of Syria, estimated at 540,000 in 2014.

The war has resulted in increasing rates of juvenile delinquency, unemployment, and psychological disorders.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in displacement camps set up for Palestinian refugees in Syria.

A former member of a pro-government militia who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity confessed that he was transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to militiamen deployed at flashpoints with opposition forces. The militiamen, many of whom were forced into military conscription with regime battalions, consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

In 2020, the Syrian security forces summoned a member of the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian regime, to questioning following reports of drug trafficking. The man, called Faisal, fled to Turkey.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are



exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

At the same time, the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the weak infrastructure of the education systems in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Many teachers, students, and parents agreed that the quality of teaching and learning deteriorated during the distance education period imposed by the lockdown, despite efforts made by teaching staff.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.



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Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Abdul Rahim, sheltered in AlBab city, in Aleppo's outskirts, north of Syria, bought a land lot in order to build residential apartments to shelter dozens of displaced Palestinian families in northern Syria displacement camps.

Local sources told AGPS that the project saw the day in early June and covers an overall area of 12 dunums. 120 residential units with an area of 45 – 65 each will be established as part of the move. Five two-room apartments have been built so far.

Priority will be given to orphans and widows along with the most vulnerable Palestinian families from I'zaz, Efrin, Deir Ballout Camp, and AlMuhammadiya Camp.

An artesian water well will also be drilled to secure potable water to the residents.

Meanwhile, UNRWA transferred food aid distribution to AlRama School, in Jaramana Camp.

A UNRWA staffer told AGPS that the old center did not make part of premises owned by the Agency but was rather rented from another party.



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The residents denounced the move, saying the new distribution centre is located several kilometers away from residential neighborhoods.

In the meantime, Palestinian student Fatma AlZahraa Mohamed Hasan Ghaben, born in 1998, joined the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, University of Dortmund, Germany, after she earned her high school certificate with an honor (15).

Born to a Palestinian family from Haifa city, Fatma, who fled war-torn Syrian to Germany, beat 2,000 participants in a verse contest. Her poem “Hole” was chosen as the best poem for 2020 and 2021.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.