



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



"Tens of Thousands at Risk of Starvation, Mass Exodus in Syria"

- Displaced Residents of Yarmouk Camp Call for Urgent, Safe Return
- UNRWA Opens Up New Office in Khan Dannun Camp
- Four Years On ... Massacre Perpetrated by Syrian Regime Still Weighing Heavily on Palestinian Refugee Camp
- Palestinian Family Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jails for Years

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Latest developments

Syria faces the risk of mass starvation or another mass exodus unless more aid money is made available, the head of the UN World Food Programme has said.

Ahead of a donor conference in Brussels on Tuesday, David Beasley told the BBC a million Syrians were severely food insecure and some were already dying.

The war-torn country's currency has collapsed and food prices have soared.

In desperation, many Syrians might have no choice but to try to flee to Europe as they did in 2015, Beasley said.

More than 380,000 people have been killed and 13.2 million others - half the pre-war population - have been displaced inside and outside Syria since an uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began in 2011.

Some 6.6 million refugees are scattered throughout the world, the vast majority of them in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, where the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has wrought havoc on economies.

"The whole world's facing crisis unlike anything we've seen probably in everyone's lifetime. But, quite frankly, what's happening in Syria is unprecedented. It's the worst of all storms coming together," Beasley said in an interview.



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The WFP's executive director said action was needed immediately to stave off further suffering and deaths among Syrians, 11 million of whom are in need of aid and protection.

"We have to have the money, and we have to have the access. And I don't mean we need to keep speculating a year from now - we need it now. We've got people on the brink of starvation now, and they can't wait. People will die, and people are dying as we speak", he said.

Describing Syria as "a political quagmire", Mr Beasley appealed to Western countries to overcome their fatigue with the long-running war.

He said world powers must allow aid to reach opposition-held areas in Syria, as well as those controlled by the government.

Beasley's message to donors ahead of Tuesday's conference was that desperate Syrians might have no choice but to try to flee to Europe again.

"If we don't have the money, here's the bottom line: you're going to either have mass migration, [or] starvation, and exploitation by extremist groups," he warned. "I think the people will leave, just like they did five or six years ago."

The UN and its partners have appealed for \$3.8bn (£3.08bn) for humanitarian work inside Syria and another \$6.04bn to help countries in the region hosting Syrian refugees. The appeals are currently 30% and 19% funded respectively.



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The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, warned that the Covid-19 crisis had had an immediate and devastating impact on the livelihoods of millions of refugees from Syria and their host countries, where there have been sharp economic downturns and poverty has spiraled.

"The most vulnerable in the society - including millions of refugees - have lost their already fragile and meagre income. They are sliding deeper into poverty and debt," he said in a statement.



In another development, Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk camp have urged local authorities to allow them to safely return to their homes and retrieve their property.

Activists said concerned authorities have been dragging their feet regarding civilians' calls for return, despite the presidential decision green-lighting the safe return of Yarmouk residents to their abandoned homes.



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They 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.

At the same time, civilian property has been subjected to theft and homes to burglary 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 regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.



In another development, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has opened an office in Khan Dannun camp, in Rif Dimashq, so as to facilitate registration for Palestinian refugees in the area.



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The new office has been established at UNRWA's Social Development Center. A worker has been tasked with taking down the refugees' demands.

Refugees will be able to register their newborns and receive aid cards along with death/birth and marriage certificates at the new office, which will be operating weekly on Tuesdays.



In the meantime, four years have passed by since the Syrian and Russian fighter jets launched their deadly offensive on Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, on June 29, 2016.

Six Palestinian residents of the camp, including a child and a woman, were killed and ten persons injured in the onslaught.



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The list of victims includes Ezzedine Yousef Ali, Ali Hasan Mousa, and the two brothers Amer and Nour AlDeen Fayez Namer, along with five-year-old Suhaib Ezzedine Ali and Fathiya Tawfiq Nahar.



Along similar lines, alarm bells have been sounded over the mysterious fate of several Palestinian families who have been held captive in Syrian dungeons.

The list of missing families includes Mouloud Khaled AlAbdullah's family, kidnapped on July 27, 2013 at a government-run checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in AlTadhamun neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.

The family's 73-year-old father, Mawloud Khalid AlAbdullah, has been diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases while the mother, Dheiba, 65, is a diabetic patient.

Al Abdullah family members Ilham, 48, Anaam, 33, Yasmeen, 39, along with the latter's six-year-old kid Obada, have all gone missing so far.



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Unverified reports said the family is being held in pro-government penitentiaries in AlTadhamun quarter. Others said the family members are locked up in a prison in Damascus. The family's actual conditions and whereabouts remain, however, shrouded in mystery.