

31-08-2021

No. 3335

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"7 Children Injured by Unexploded Ordnance in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria"

- Palestine Refugee Agency Deeply Saddened by Damage Wrought on Deraa Camp School
- Mortars Hit Civilian Homes in Syria Palestinian Refugee Camp
- Palestinian Refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Facing Squalid Humanitarian Condition
- Palestinians Join Vigil in Germany in Solidarity with Victims of Secret Imprisonment in Syria



Latest Developments

At least seven children were left wounded in Hindarat Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, as explosive debris went off in the area.

The wounded were rushed to AlKindi Hospital in Aleppo.

Reporting from northern Syria, an AGPS news correspondent said the children, aged between 14 and 16, were wounded as they gathered in a playground in the camp. Screaming and shouting were heard at the time of the blast. The children's faces were covered with blood. They sustained chest and stomach injuries and bruises. One of them is in a critical condition as a shrapnel penetrated his skull.

The list of injured children includes Mohamed Bassem Meri, Mohamed AlMesri Sweid, Ahmed Mohamed Kasem, Mousa Yaser AlKhader, and Reda Abdul Fatah.

Landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which are particularly unpredictable and difficult to detect, continue to put millions of people, including Palestine refugees, at risk.

Data by the UN Agency for Palestine refugees indicates that in Syria, approximately 1 in 2 people are at risk from explosive contamination and 1/3 of the communities are potentially contaminated. Contamination severely impacts lives, livelihoods



and amplifies the social and economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

People displaced or returning home are at high risk as they have limited information on safety issues in the areas they are going to.

This threat is particularly high for Palestine refugees in Syria, especially in newly-accessible or difficult-to-reach areas. These include areas that Palestine refugees have recently returned to areas such as Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camp.

Children on their way to and from school are highly exposed to the dangers of explosive ordnance.

Along similar lines, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) expressed its deep concern over the damage sustained to its installations as a result of the ongoing armed conflict in southern Syria.

In a statement issued on Monday, August 30, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Syrian Arab Republic Amanya Michael-Ebye said that on the night of 27 August 2021, an explosion took place in the Tariq al-Sad neighbourhood of Dera'a city, close to Dera'a refugee camp and the UNRWA schools therein. The resulting shockwave led to damages to two UNRWA schools (Al-Safsaf and Ein Karem Schools). The damages include broken windows, doors and structural damage to a perimeter wall.

UNRWA had fully rehabilitated the school buildings in February 2020, after they were significantly damaged in the armed conflict



in 2012 and, at the time of this explosion, had ongoing renovation works on the remaining school blocks in another section of the same compound. The children in the area had not had a properly functioning school for eight years prior to February 2020.

The Agency's installations, like all United Nations facilities, are marked as such and fly a United Nations flag on the roof. The Agency received no warning that there would be hostilities in an area so close to the UNRWA schools, according to the UN official.

The Agency said it is extremely concerned by incidents of this nature, which threaten the Agency's ability to maintain the safety of its personnel, beneficiaries and property, as well as the inviolability of UN premises pursuant to international law.

UNRWA reiterated its previous call that all parties must protect civilians and safeguard civilian infrastructure, including UNRWA installations in Dera'a Governorate.

Amanya added that educational facilities should be protected and remain a safe haven for students to learn and build their future, where they should feel secure and free from the strain of the ongoing armed conflict. The right to education should be protected at all times.

On Monday, Syrian security forces targeted Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, with four mortar shells. No injuries were reported.



An AGPS news reporter said civilian houses sustained severe material damage.

Recently, the Syrian regime escalated attacks on Deraa in an attempt to force the opposition groups to lay down their arms.

In the meantime, residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp, in Rif Dimashq, have been enduring dire humanitarian conditions.

Eleven years into the conflict, more than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items.

The reluctance maintained by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other concerned bodies regarding their cries for help has made the situation far worse.

As a result, scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

The Syrian government forces regained control over AlSayeda Zeinab Camp following a seven-month military operation. Heavy material damage had been inflicted on the camp.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area.



Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

In another development, Palestinian refugees joined a vigil held on Monday, August 30, in German's multi-nation tributary of Koblenz to pressurize the Syrian regime to release all detainees and cease its war crimes perpetrated behind prison bars.

The rally-goers carried photos of dozens of torture victims and detainees forcibly disappeared in Syrian jails.

According to AGPS statistics, over 620 Palestinian refugees died under torture in a Syrian prisons.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian prisoners, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,



Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of 1,800 Palestinians secretly held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.