

U.N. calls for help for Yarmouk

10th April, 2015



The United Nations has made a plea for humanitarian access to the besieged Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in the suburbs of

Damascus. The UN is concerned about the plight of around 18,000 Palestinian refugees holed up in the camp. Many of Yarmouk's residents fled after the group ISIS invaded last Wednesday and overran the camp. Jordan's Ambassador to the UN Dina Kavar called "for the protection of civilians in the camp" and for "humanitarian access to the area including...life-saving assistance". Another UN spokesperson Pierre Krahenbuhl described the situation as "more desperate than ever". He said: "What civilians in Yarmouk are most concerned about right now is bare survival".

Yarmouk was established in 1957 to accommodate the huge influx of Palestinian refugees from Israel. It became home to the largest Palestinian refugee community in Syria. Before the recent ISIS incursion, around 160,000 people lived there. Life in the camp had already become intolerable for most residents following 18 months of bombing and a siege because of Syria's civil war. Many parts of the camp now resemble a ghost town, with shells of bomb-blasted buildings and a civilian population that has fled. News agencies report that ISIS now controls about 90 per cent of the camp. Syrian authorities are worried ISIS could use it as a springboard to launch attacks on the capital Damascus.

Sources: ArabNews.com / Wikipedia.org / dw.de

Writing

All rich countries should accept all refugees. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

humanitarian / besieged / refugee / ambassador / civilians / assistance / survival / established / community / intolerable / siege / residents / ghost town / authorities

True / False

- The UN is worried about 180,000 residents of Yarmouk. T / F
- ISIS invaded the camp last Saturday. T / F
- The article quotes Jordan's Ambassador to Syria. T / F
- A UN spokesperson said civilians are most worried about survival. T / F
- Yarmouk was set up in 1957. T / F
- Yarmouk was the largest Palestinian refugee community in Syria. T / F
- The article says there are many ghosts in the town. T / F
- Syria is worried ISIS might attack Damascus from Yarmouk. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. plea | a. population |
| 2. suburbs | b. worried |
| 3. fled | c. outskirts |
| 4. assistance | d. set up |
| 5. concerned | e. appeal |
| 6. established | f. look like |
| 7. community | g. attack |
| 8. incursion | h. ran away |
| 9. resemble | i. start |
| 10. launch | j. aid |

Discussion – Student A

- Should richer countries accept more refugees?
- In what ways do you think life in the camp is intolerable?
- Should the USA and other countries go into Syria?
- What should other Arab countries be doing to help Syrians?
- Will ISIS win?
- What do you think the situation will be like this time next year?
- What would happen if ISIS attacked and overran Damascus?
- What questions would you like to ask the UN spokesperson?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- in the suburbs
- Many of Yarmouk's residents
- life-saving
- more desperate
- bare
- Before the recent ISIS
- Life in the camp had already
- 18 months of bombing
- resemble a ghost
- launch attacks on the
- incursion
- than ever
- town
- of Damascus
- become intolerable
- assistance
- capital Damascus
- survival
- and a siege
- fled

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Yarmouk?
- What good do you think the U.N. plea will do?
- How could ISIS get to control a Damascus suburb?
- How can the world help the refugees in Yarmouk?
- Why are there so many refugees in the world?
- To what extent has the world forgotten about what's happening in Syria?
- What kind of humanitarian assistance is needed?
- What do you imagine the situation in Yarmouk to be like?

Spelling

- The United Nations has made a pale
- in the ssrubub of Damascus
- the ghlpit of around 18,000 Palestinian refugees
- the protection of lnivacsii
- life-saving tsasicsena
- more staeperde than ever
- mdoaccotame the huge influx
- the recent ISIS ncinorusi
- eoenblrilta for most residents
- 18 months of bombing and a egeis
- srlbeeem a ghost town
- Syrian irauthstoie

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. h	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. a	8. g	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Tents

You think refugees need tents most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least needed of these (and why): Internet, medicine or clothes.

Role B – Internet

You think refugees need the Internet most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least needed of these (and why): tents, medicine or clothes.

Role C – Medicine

You think refugees need medicine most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least needed of these (and why): Internet, tents or clothes.

Role D – Clothes

You think refugees need clothes most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least needed of these (and why): Internet, medicine or tents.

Speaking – Assistance

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important aid items at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- torches
- medicine
- clothes
- Internet
- water
- tents
- blankets
- food

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.