



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



"Israeli Occupation Blocks Access of 18 Palestinians from Syria to Homeland"

- US Cuts Funding to Palestine Refugee Agency
- Families in Handarat Camp Launch Distress Signals over Water, Power Crises
- Palestinian Refugee Mansour Falah Held in Syrian Jail for 4th Year

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Latest Developments

The Israeli occupation authorities banned, some few days ago, a group of Palestinian youths from Syria with Swedish citizenship documents, from entering the occupied Palestinian territories, before they were sent back to where they came from.

Speaking with AGPS, Palestinian young man Milad Abu Issa, from Yarmouk Camp, said 25 Palestinians sheltered in refugee camps across the Syrian territories and holding a Swedish citizenship received invitations to attend a conference celebrating Palestine's cultural heritage in the occupied West Bank.



Abu Issa added that the banned youths took flights from Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Manchester on Friday, August 24, before they landed in the Israeli Ben Gurion Airport, where they got detained and made to endure intensive questioning. Only seven young men were allowed in while the others had been subjected to further questioning.

Abu Issa said questions turned around alleged involvement in anti-Israel boycott campaigns in Europe, adding that investigators forcibly took away his mobile phone to take out his friends' phone numbers and Facebook accounts.



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Abu Issa had been questioned for 20 minutes before he received an arbitrary ten-year ban from Palestine.

The refugee added that the youths had been detained at the airport for periods ranging from 24 to 48 hours.

An investigation officer reportedly asked him: "How come you're Swedish and you don't have a blond hair?" to which Abu Issa responded: "I'm a Palestinian from Haifa." The officer replied: "Haifa is an Israeli city." Abu Issa answer back: "Haifa is and will forever remain a Palestinian city."

Prior to his banishment, Abu Issa was dragged, handcuffed, from prison to the airport, where authorities booked him a flight to Brussels and then to Manchester.

The refugee railed against the deportation order, which he described as "illegal", saying: "Our trip conveys a message to the Israeli occupation that third-generation Palestinians will never ever forget their motherland."

Meanwhile, the United States said it decided to cut all funding for the UN's Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA).

The US State Department says described UNRWA as "irredeemably flawed".

The US administration has "carefully reviewed" the issue and "will not make additional contributions to UNRWA," spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.



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The latest move comes after the US announced back in January that it would withhold more than half of a tranche of funding for the agency.

UNRWA was originally set up to take care of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the 1948 Israeli war.

The agency says it currently supports more than five million Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, including providing health care, education and social services.

The US has been the largest single donor to Unrwa, providing \$368m (£284m) in 2016 and funding almost 30% of its operations in the region.

Earlier this year, the US President Donald Trump threatened to cut aid to the Palestinians over what he called their unwillingness to negotiate with Israel.

The US and Israel also disagree with UNRWA on which Palestinians are refugees with a right to return to the homes they fled following the 1948 war.

In another development, Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services.

A resident said a severe water and power crisis continue to rock Tershiha neighborhood in Handarat.

In a video sent to AGPS, the resident said massive destruction has been wrought on the camp in the raging warfare, expressing wishes



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that infrastructure would be rehabilitated and civilians allowed a safe access to their ruined homes.



Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits resulted in huge material damage. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other areas in Aleppo.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mansour Mahmoud Falah, born in 1950, has been locked up in Syrian government dungeons for the fourth year running.

He was kidnapped by pro-government groups at a checkpoint in Khirbet AlWard, in Rif Dimashq, on May 26, 2014.

AGPS documented the incarceration of over 1,693 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government penitentiaries.