



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"18 Palestinian Journalists Killed in War-Torn Syria"

- **Palestinians from Syria Face Dire Conditions upon Return to Besieged Gaza Strip**
- **Rally Staged in Sweden in Solidarity with Palestinian Refugees in Thailand**
- **Photo Exhibition Held in Gaziantep to Speak up for Palestinian Victims of Torture in Syrian Jails**

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Latest Developments

AGPS has kept record of the murder of several Palestinian journalists and the abduction of dozens more in war-torn Syria.

At least 18 Palestinian journalists were killed since the outburst of deadly hostilities in March 2011, among them academics and volunteers. The casualties died while covering scenes on the battleground or while providing civilians with relief assistance across the ravaged Syrian territories.



Facts on the ground prove that the number of casualties is much higher. Difficulties in documentation stem from the absence of official statistics, lack of concern as regards the number of Palestinian casualties, journalists in particular, and the intricacy of the name-identification process.

The list includes nine journalists who died under shelling, five who were tortured to death, and four others who were fatally shot.



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AGPS has learned that the casualties are photojournalists and activists Fady Abu Ajaj, Jamal Khalifa, Ahmad AlSahli, Bassam Hamidi, Ahmad Taha, and Bilal Sa'id. They were killed in onslaughts targeting Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Photojournalist Jihad Shehabi died in an air strike on Hjeira town, south of Damascus, while activist Yamen Dhaher was killed in a raid on Khan Eshieh Camp. News correspondent Tareq Ziad Khader was pronounced dead in Daraa Camp, south of Syria.

Yarmouk residents Niraz Sa'id, Khaled Bakrawi, Hassan Hassan, and Alaa Naji, along with Bilal Ahmad, from Muadhamiyat AlSham, were tortured to death in Syrian government prisons.

Iyas Farhat was the first journalist to be killed in Yarmouk as he covered a rally protesting the murder of 14 members of the Palestine Liberation Army in the bloody shootouts north of Syria.

Ghassan Shehabi, director of AlShajara Center to document Palestinian heritage, along with activists Ahmad Kousa and Mounir AlKhatib were gunned down by a government sniper in Yarmouk Camp.

Scores of activists, journalists, and correspondents have, meanwhile, been locked up in Syrian government dungeons for years. The list includes Muhannad Omar, Ali Shehabi, Rami Hajou, Ali Musleh, and Ahmad Jalil.

AGPS continues to denounce the apathy maintained by the international community and Palestinian leadership as regards the



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extrajudicial killing, harsh torture, and arbitrary detention of Palestinian journalists and activists in war-ravaged Syria.

A report released by AGPS to document the violations perpetrated against Palestinian journalists in Syria provides through data about the number of detainees and casualties who died while trying to cover events, protests, and war crimes across the embattled Syrian territories.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinian refugees from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 11-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

The Palestinians of Syria in Gaza attributed the crisis to the apathy maintained by the human rights institutions, most notably the UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.



Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.



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Palestinian refugee Yehya AlSayed who fled the deadly hostilities in Seyf AlDawla area, in Aleppo's suburbs, said the refugees have been caught in a new tide of displacement and dispossession, having no safe place to run to or hide into.

AlSayed said he had left Egypt after the Palestinian government pledged to work out the refugees' situation, shell out a \$500-grant to every refugee family, afford residential apartments in Hamad city, secure jobs to breadwinners, and provide health care services and scholarships for university students.

“However, none of such promises has seen the day”, said AlSayed.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property. The lack of relief assistance has added bad to worse.

The situation has been exacerbated by the crackdowns pursued by the Egyptian authorities on the borders with Gaza, prohibiting the refugees from leaving the besieged enclave as they rummaged around for medical therapy, sources of income, or safe shelters.

Speaking on behalf of the Palestinians of Syria, AlSayed called for serious steps to tone down the calamitous state of affairs wrought on the refugees inside and outside of Gaza and to implement a ministerial council decision, issued in April 2016, to provide every displaced family with an apartment, a job, health insurance, and student grants.



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In the meantime, a rally was held by activists in the Swedish city of Helsingborg in solidarity with Palestinian, Syrian, and Iraqi migrants who have been at the risk of refoulement and imprisonment in Thailand for overstaying their visas.

The rally-goers lifted banners calling for urgent action to save women and children held in Thai jails and provide legal and moral assistance to refugees stranded in Thailand.

Over 600 Palestinian refugees, including 50 from Syria, have sought shelter in Thailand, where they have been treated as lawbreakers rather than as asylum-seekers fleeing war-torn zones.

A couple of days earlier, activists from the International Campaign to Save Detainees staged a photo exhibition in the Turkish city of Gaziantep in an attempt to raise awareness about political prisoners and victims of fatal torture in Syrian government penitentiaries.

Photos put on display at the event depicted the dire conditions endured by thousands of detainees in Syrian state prisons.

Hundreds of pictures of torture victims figured in a gigantic photo displayed at the exhibition. Another picture was attributed to Caesar's leaked snapshots.

According to AGPS figures, as many as 1,709 Palestinians have been locked up in Syrian government dungeons, where 558 others have also been tortured to death.