



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



**"On World Press Freedom Day, the Action Group: dozens of Palestinian journalists have died or been arrested while covering the truth in Syria"**

- Palestinian refugee dies while fighting in Yarmouk camp
- A girl from Yarmouk camp dies after the bombardment of Al-Ja'una neighborhood
- Reports of casualties and injuries under the rubble, following an air raid on Yarmouk camp
- Violent clashes between ISIS and the Syrian regime in Yarmouk camp and Al-Hajar Al-Aswad
- Calls for the assistance of a Palestinian-Syrian who is in urgent need of the expansion of his heart vessels
- A Palestinian detainee seen at the Mezzeh branch in Damascus

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## Victims

Palestinian refugee “Othman Nour El-Din Khattab” has died while fighting with the factions loyal to the Syrian regime in the ongoing clashes in Yarmouk camp, against ISIS. He was a resident of Yarmouk camp.



Meanwhile, “Sarah,” a girl from Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, as a result of a head injury she received in the heavy bombardment targeting one of the cellars in Al-Ja'una neighborhood in the camp.

The Syrian regime is waging a fierce military campaign against Yarmouk camp and the neighborhoods of Al-Qadam and Al-Hajar Al-Aswad, since the 19th of April. At least 35 Palestinian refugees have died.

## Latest Developments

On the eve of World Press Freedom Day, AGPS said it documented the death and arrest of dozens of Palestinian journalists for participating in sharing the truth of the camps and Palestinian gatherings.



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The Action Group noted that the “Palestinian Press” inside the camps amid the Syrian revolution, was not the outcome of academic expertise and specialization, but was the result of the general need imposed by the absence of indigenous media cadres, due to displacement, asylum, neutrality or association with the regime, who worked early on limiting this type of university specialization to a certain category of the Syrian people, until the 90s of last century, and the imposition of control and follow-up on media representatives, in an attempt to hide the truth and presenting its account of what is happening inside Syria.

Regarding the Palestinian media staff in Syria, the Action Group documented the death of 17 victims with different competencies; academics or volunteers, who have often combined more than one job at times; development-relief-media. They died in different areas across Syria during their press coverage to the ongoing events, since March 2011 and until December 2016.

The numbers of the ground however seem to be much bigger, given the circumstances surrounding the arrest, declaration of death or the difficulty of access to official records, as well as the responsibilities that lie on the victims' families consequently.

The Action Group added that 9 of the victims died during the bombardments of the Syrian regime, 4 died under torture and 4 others died as a result of the sniper shots and fighting.

They are: Photographer “Fady Abu Ajaj,” photographer “Jamal Khalifa,” media and relief activist “Ahmed El-Sahly,” media activist and photographer “Bassam Al-Homaydi,” photographer, “Ahmed



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Taha” and media activist and photographer “Belal Saeed,” died during the bombardment of Yarmouk camp in Damascus.

Photographer “Jihad Shehaby,” died during the bombardment of the town of Hejira in the south of Damascus, media activist “Yamen Zaher,” died as a result of the bombardment of Khan Al-Sheih camp and journalist “Tariq Ziyad Khedr,” who was killed in Deraa camp in the south of Syria.

The Group indicated the death of 4 media activists due to torture in the Syrian regime’s prisons: “Khaled Bakrawy,” artist “Hassan Hassan,” activist “Alaa Al-Najy, residents of Yarmouk, and “Belel Ahmed,” from the town of Muadamiyat Al-Sham.

The victims of the fighting and sniper shots are: media personnel and photographer “Eyas Farahat,” who was the first martyr in Yarmouk camp, where he died while carrying his camera to cover a protest that went out in the camp, to condemn the killing of 14 soldiers from the ranks of the Palestinian Liberation Army, in the Syrian north.

Media activist and director of the tree center documenting the Palestinian memory, “Ghassan Shehaby,” who was assassinated with a sniper shot by the Syrian regime while driving his car in Yarmouk camp, and media activists, “Ahmed Kosa” and “Moneer Al-Khatib” were shot by snipers of the Syrian regime in Yarmouk camp.

The Group added that many media activists, journalists and writers were placed under arrest in the prisons of the Syrian regime, without

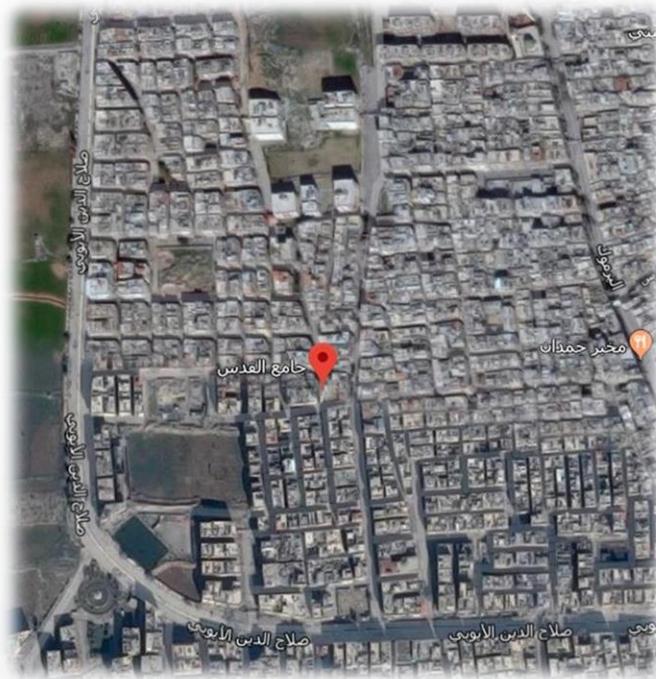


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knowing their fate, including journalist “Mohanad Omar,” and writer “Aly Al-Shehaby.”

It is worth mentioning that the cases of targeting and killing of Palestinian journalists have not witnessed any official Palestinian interaction or serious claims of bringing the perpetrators to justice on charges of murder and torture of those civilians who were carried their cameras or mobile phones as past weapons, to reflect the reality on the ground as it is without increasing or decreasing.

In another context, the Action Group was informed that warplanes launched a raid on one of the residential buildings in Street 15, near to Al-Quds Mosque, causing a number of deaths and casualties, who are still trapped under the rubble to this moment.



This comes in light of the sharp deterioration in the humanitarian situation inside Yarmouk camp, due to the increasing number of



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aerial and artillery bombardments targeting the camp, amid the lack of all the basic elements of life and relief work inside the camp, where there are no rescue and civil defense teams inside the camp.

The Syrian regime launched a major military campaign targeting Yarmouk camp and the neighborhoods of Al-Hajar Al-Aswad and Al-Qadam since the 19th of April, causing dozens of casualties and injuries, as well as massive destruction of the camp's infrastructure and buildings.

In the same context, Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees and the neighborhood of Al-Hajar Al-Aswad, witnessed the outbreak of violent clashes between the Syrian regime forces and ISIS, where medium and heavy weapons were used.

According to media reports attributed to the Syrian regime, the regime's forces were able to expand their control areas in the south of Damascus, which helped them to separate Yarmouk camp and parts of Al-Hajar Al-Aswad neighborhood.

In Lebanon, 61-year-old Palestinian-Syrian refugee “Aly Nabolsy,” from Az Zyabeyeh in the suburbs of Damascus, who was displaced to the Ain Al-Hilwah camp in Sidon, south of Lebanon, is suffering from an artery blockage in the heart, which requires surgery that he can not afford.

Al-Nabolsy called on the white hands and anyone who can help, to support him in securing the cost of the surgery to expand his heart vessels number 2, by balloon number 2, and number 2 saws that reach about 7 thousand dollars. UNRWA will provide \$2000



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according to Nabolsy, while the Palestinian embassy provided \$1200. The amount due is approximately \$3800.

According to the patient, he can not insure any part of the amount due to his age, his inability to work, and his poor living and economic conditions due to the lack of a stable financial resource. He is confused about how to act and to whom to resort, his life is a real danger and he has nothing but hope from Allah.

It is noteworthy that the reality of medicine in Lebanon is bitter and tragic, and the rights of the Lebanese citizen with medicine and hospitalization is deteriorating on a daily basis. According to the patients' testimonies, the poor are left to their fate, and often to their death at the doors of hospitals that are supposed to be found to relieve them of their pain and suffering.

Statistics and figures show that more than half of the Lebanese population have no health coverage or insurance. So what is it like if the patient is a Palestinian-Syrian refugee who is considered the weakest link in Lebanon. Many appeals have been made by the Palestinian-Syrian refugees to ensure their care and exhume the bodies of their families and children, as a result of their inability to pay for the hospitalization. However, their appeals went unheeded due to the absence and evasion of local and international humanitarian institutions, in general for Palestinian refugees, from carrying out this task in the human and hospital form required.

Most of the Palestinian-Syrian refugees rely on UNRWA to obtain primary medical care, with regard to surgical operations that UNRWA covers a part of. Palestinian refugees from Syria suffer



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from delays and barbarities in the process of obtaining medical referrals, where UNRWA requires the approval of its offices in Syria, which makes the refugee wait between 30-90 days, in which the refugee is forced whether to wait, or to search for an alternative body to provide for their treatment or surgery.

In another context, one of the detainees released from the prisons of the Syrian regime confirmed that he saw the Palestinian refugee “Feras Abd El Razak Azouz,” in prison, who was a resident of Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees in the south of Syria.

Media pages on social media sites, concerned with the issues of detainees in the Syrian prisons, quoted the released detainee with a list of the names of the detainees, which included Azouz’s name, saying that they were seen in the Mezzeh branch on the 28th of February 2018. The Action Group was unable to confirm the reports from other sources.

Many of the released detainees transferred their views of Palestinian detainees or those who were tortured in the prisons of the regime, while the Syrian security continues to conceal the fate of detainees, performing all forms of torture against them, including the women, according to those documented testimonies. The Action Group has documented the arrest of 1677 Palestinian refugees to this moment.

### **Palestinians of Syria: May 05, 2018 Statistics:**

- The total number of victims documented by the Action Group is 3735, including 467 women



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- 1676 Palestinians are locked up behind Syrian government's bars, 106 of which are women
- Yarmouk refugee camp is under the Syrian regime army and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's siege for 1,751 days in a row
- 206 refugees, mainly in Yarmouk Camp, have died due to lack of medical care and malnutrition
- Water supplies have been cut off Deraa Camp for 1486 days, and 1335 days in Yarmouk Camp
- The Regime army has been in control of Handarat camp for more than 582 days. More than 80% of its buildings have been completely or partially destroyed.
- Approximately 85 thousand Palestinian-Syrian refugees fled to Europe by the end of 2016, while 31 thousand refugees are estimated to be in Lebanon, 17 thousand refugees are sheltered in Jordan, 6 thousand refugees are in Egypt, 8 thousand refugees are staying in Turkey, and one thousand Palestinian-Syrians are in Gaza.