



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



"10 Palestinian Refugees Held in Turkish Detention Center for 15th day"

- Qudsaya Residents Rail against Teacher Shortage, Substitution of UNRWA Staff
- UNRWA Delegation Pays Visit to Khan Eshieh Camp
- 39% of Palestinians from Syria Killed during 1st Half of 2018 Identified as Militants
- Palestinian Refugee Mahmoud Tamim Held in Syrian Prison since 2015

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Latest Developments

10 Palestinian refugees have been detained by the Turkish authorities at a so-called Krit Gendarme-Central detention center in Antakya for the 15th day running.

The list of detainees includes Jamil Khalil Emara, Ghufran Hamid, Ahmad Khaled Mohamed, Amal Hamid, eight-month-old Naya, Khaled Mahmoud AlKhatib, Ahmad Emad Mustafa and his wife and daughter, and Abdul Rahman Mahmoud.



The refugees urged the Turkish government to take all measures necessary to improve the living conditions endured by Palestinian families from Syria in shelters and refugee camps set up in Turkey.

The refugees said families held in detention centers have been grappling with tough conditions due to daily mistreatment and crackdowns.

Life in the so-called “Krit Gendarme” center is similar to life in prison, where the refugees’ movement is blocked inside and out and mobile phones seized. Public phones are allowed only once a day, a refugee told AGPS.



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Children and women have also been separated from their fathers and husbands in the shelter. Several of those who have been sick or caught diseases in the center have been left without treatment.

Recently, the appeals launched by a Palestinian family to treat their eight-month-old toddler Naya have gone unheeded due to medicine shortage in the center.

Meanwhile, families of Palestinian students sheltered in Qudsaya town, in Rif Dimashq, spoke out against the shortage in teaching staff and the continuous replacement of instructors at educational facilities run by UNRWA.

In a letter emailed to AGPS, a student's mother said: "I am from Yarmouk Camp but I am currently taking refuge in Qudsaya. Today I went to my son's school but I was told that the teacher is leaving for Europe in a couple of months over wage concerns."

"Over recent years, we have suffered from a severe shortage in teaching staff, which has wrought severe impacts on our children's academic output. Every couple of months or so a teacher is replaced by another. It seems as if our children were Laboratory mice," she added.

"We call on the directors of education and of the refugee agency to immediately step in and work on recruiting permanent tutors that should neither be laid off nor substituted until the end of the school year", the mother stated.

A student's father also expressed seething anger over the decline in the students' academic performance and skill-development at UNRWA schools due to the absence of qualified instructors.



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The father denounced the propagation of private tutoring among UNRWA staff members, which he said has added fuel to fire.

The devastating impact of the war in Syria has diminished the academic achievement of students in UN-run schools as educational facilities had come under heavy shelling by the Syrian and Russian forces. Several schools have gone out of operation as a result.

In 2015, 75% of persons in Syria had access to education, down from 95% prior to the outbreak of the warfare.

UNRWA figures have shown that 70% of all the Agency's schools in Syria have gone inoperative. This is due to school buildings being destroyed, damaged, rendered inaccessible by fighting, or because they have been turned into shelters housing the displaced.

65,479 Palestinian schoolchildren have received academic courses at 118 UNRWA schools operating on a two-shift basis.

In the meantime, director of UNRWA projects in Syria, Michael Amania, and a delegation of UNRWA staff members in charge of the health, relief, education, and engineering programs, along with Director-General of the General Authority of Palestinian Arab Refugees, Ali Mustafa, showed up in Khan Eshieh Camp in Rif Dimashq on September 3 to inspect the progress of vital services in the area.

The visit comes in response to an appeal launched by UNRWA's Commissioner-General under the slogan "Human Dignity is Priceless" to push the international community to rally round the refugee agency in the face of the ad hominem campaigns waged by the US President Donald Trump.



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Khan Eshieh students used to attend classes in six schools established by UNRWA in the area, including two schools for boys, two for girls, and two preparatory schools. Another government-run school for Syrian nationals, along with a secondary school and kindergartens, had also been operative in the area.



Along the same line, AGPS annual report for 2017 documented the increase of the death toll among Palestinian militants in Syria in 2018, with a total of 65 refugees, making up 39.16% of the overall number of victims in 2018, estimated at 166. In 2017, 63 refugees were identified as militants, among 102 refugees pronounced dead during the same year.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Tamim has been locked up in Syrian government dungeons since March 12, 2015.

He was arrested by the government forces at a relief distribution center set up by UNRWA south of Damascus.

Activists have appealed to the concerned human rights institutions and international bodies, among them UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy in Damascus, to work on disclosing his fate.