



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



"Alarm Sounded over Crooked Merchants in Yarmouk"

- **Palestinian Young Men Arrested South of Damascus**
- **Palestinians from Syria Take Part in Swedish Elections**
- **Malaysia Embarks on Fundraising Campaign for Palestine Refugee Agency**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

Lawyers and activists have called on residents of Yarmouk Camp to stand on guard to “profiteers” who purchase civilian property at very low costs, taking unreasonable profit from the calamitous situation and state of psychological dismay overwhelming the families.

“As access into and out of Yarmouk is to be unblocked and following reports that the camp will not undergo rehabilitation, profiteers have left no stone unturned to purchase damaged property at extremely low costs,” a lawyer told AGPS.



The lawyer added that the crooked brokers have been telling the residents that they will not be able to go back to their homes and that the camp will remain uninhabitable due to poor infrastructure, in an attempt to force the locals out of the area once and for all.

Media sources quoted lawyer Nour AlDeen Salman as stating that Yarmouk Camp stands outside the borders of rehabilitation maps as most of its property belongs to the General Authority for Arab Palestinian Refugees and UNRWA.



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The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched on April 19. At least 33 civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Heavy material damage was wrought on civilian buildings and property.

Over 80% of buildings in Yarmouk Camp have been either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare. 90% of homes have been subjected to burglary and looting.

Meanwhile, activists quoted local sources south of Damascus as stating that Syrian government forces arrested a number of Palestinian youths for forgoing military service at the pro-government Palestine Liberation Army.

Activists estimated that 35 Palestinians displaced from Yarmouk and seeking shelter south of Damascus were targeted by the abduction sweep.

Conscription at PLA is compulsory for Palestinian refugees in Syria. Scores of youths were killed as they fought alongside the Syrian government troops.

In the meantime, a number of Palestinians from Syria cast their votes in the Swedish elections.

10 Palestinians from Syria, including Emil Sarsour, also have run for the 2018 parliamentary and municipal elections staged in the kingdom.

Sarsour said the participation of Palestinians from Syrian in Swedish elections bodes well.



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Dozens of Palestinians from Syria have been granted the Swedish citizenship following a four-year stay in the country.

In another development, The Government of Malaysia launched on Saturday a national fundraising campaign to support Palestine refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The campaign aims to mobilize resources for UNRWA at a time when the agency faces an unprecedented financial crisis after the United States, a major donor, announced its decision to no longer fund the agency.

Speaking at the campaign launch event, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah said: "The recent funding cuts to UNRWA undermine the education, healthcare and other life-saving services to vulnerable Palestine refugees."

She called on all Malaysians "to join this effort. No matter how small, your contribution can make a big difference to people who have nothing."

She added that her government is determined to do all it can to ensure that Palestine refugees receive the support and solidarity they deserve.

Hundreds of Malaysian public and private sector leaders attended the campaign launch event in Kuala Lumpur. Many have expressed their solidarity with Palestine refugees, and have vowed to contribute to the national campaign, which will continue for a period of a month.



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"The campaign in Malaysia culminates months of bilateral discussions between the Government of Malaysia and UNRWA," said Abdirahman Aynte, the Chair of the Dignity is Priceless campaign. "The result is a robust public fundraising campaign with the aim to raise much-needed funds for the Agency and raise awareness about the plight of Palestine refugees in that part of the world."

In addition to the campaign, Malaysia has been a consistent supporter of UNRWA for decades, both in financial and political terms. Deputy PM Wan Azizah said her country will continue to use its political influence to ensure that UNRWA receives the support it deserves, including at the UN General Assembly.

