



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



### "PRC Sounds Alarm over Palestine Refugees in Northern Syria, Egypt, & Thailand at UNHRC"

- Lebanon Hospital Withholds Body of Palestinian Refugee over Treatment Fees
- UNRWA Urges Donor Parties to Rally Around Palestinians from Syria
- Free Medical Day Held in Badawi Camp North of Lebanon
- Leisure Activities Held by FIDAR for Displaced Children
- Palestinian Refugee Yehya Khatib Enduring Mysterious Fate in Syrian Jail for 8th Year

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## Latest Developments

Two oral statements were delivered by the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) on Tuesday, March 12, as part of Agenda Item 4 of the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The first statement underscored the situation of 1,500 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp for nearly one year. PRC reminded the chairperson and distinguished delegates of the disastrous fallouts wrought by the river floods, snowstorms, and freezing temperatures that swamped the area over recent months and which took away the lives of a number of refugees. Medical neglect made the situation far more alarming.



PRC's speaker condemned the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for turning its back on the refugees' cries for help on account that access is extremely difficult to the tension-stricken area. PRC further lashed out at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which continues to rebuff the refugees' appeals



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for urgent assistance on account that the mission makes part of UNRWA's mandate.

PRC also urged the Turkish government to intervene at the soonest time possible and work on replacing ramshackle refugee tents with walled houses or mobile homes pending a just and lasting solution to the refugees' plight.

The second oral contribution warned of the situation endured by dozens of Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to the Kingdom of Thailand. The refugees risk to be forcibly sent back to Syria or tossed into Thai detention centers for indefinite periods of time.

PRC called on the UNHCR, as the body mandated with promoting and protecting Palestinians' human rights that are guaranteed under international law, to work out the refugees' legal status after dozens of them overstayed their visas and have, thus, been sent to jail.

PRC urged the UNHCR and Thai authorities to combine forces in order to save the lives of some 179 Palestinian families, among them 50 from Syria, who continue to live in a state of perpetual fear and deep-seated trauma in Thailand. PRC pushed for the immediate release of dozens of nonviolent refugees who took to the street to speak up for their rights.

PRC also submitted two written reports about the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Thailand and Egypt. The reports were



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officially taken onboard by the UNHRC as authentic UN-archived documents.

PRC is an independent, non-partisan organization advocating the rights of Palestinian refugees. In July 2015, the centre was granted consultative status at the United Nations as a Non-governmental organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in recognition of its efforts in standing up for Palestinian human rights.

In another development, the body of Palestinian refugee Mohamed Ahmed Eid has been withheld by a hospital in the southern Lebanese city of Sour (Tyre) after his family failed to shell out hospitalization fees.

The administration of Jabal Amel Hospital in Sour has rebuffed the appeals of Mohamed's family to hand them over the body of their son, who passed away on Wednesday, March 13.



Displaced from Yarmouk Camp in Syria to AlRashidiya Camp in Sour, the unemployed family has failed to secure their son's treatment fees, estimated at \$4,400.



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Mohamed's siblings have appealed to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations to take serious measures in order to pressurize the hospital administration to release their son's body so as to bid him last farewell and lay him to rest.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has appealed to donor countries, gathering in Brussels on Thursday, not to forget the plight of the Palestinians in Syria and to donate the same level of contribution as last year.

"I would be very grateful if in this conference, and in general support to UNRWA, ...every donor could maintain its level of contribution," Pierre Krahenbuhl, UNRWA Commissioner-General, told Kuwaiti News Agency KUNA in an interview.



"Our humble request to decision makers and opinion makers is that we continue to consider the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria with great attention," said Krahenbuhl, who is in the Belgian capital to take part in the third Brussels conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region.



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He noted that the Syrian conflict has caused immense suffering and trauma over the past eight years. The 560,000 Palestine refugees in Syria were largely self-sufficient before the war. Today over 95 percent of the approximately 440,000 Palestinians still in Syria are entirely reliant on humanitarian aid for their survival, warned Krahenbuhl.

The situation for those who have fled to Lebanon (some 28,000) and Jordan (some 17,000) is also dire.

He noted that the US decision last year to cut funding for UNRWA led to the most severe financial crisis faced by the UN agency ever.

In the meantime, the Medical Care Center of the Shifa Medical and Humanitarian Society in AlBadawi Camp, north of Lebanon, announced Saturday, March 16, a free medical day.

The center said concerned patients and children will receive free general health diagnoses along with checks on bone diseases, urinary tract disorders, otolaryngology problems, gland disorders, and diabetes.

At the same time, a set of activities was held on Sunday by the Turkish Association to Support Palestine (FIDAR) for displaced Palestinian children from Syria in the southern Turkish city of Reyhanli.

Sports activities and culture quizzes about the names of Palestinian cities were held as part of the event.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Yehya Mahmoud Khatib has been secretly locked up in a Syrian state jail for the 8th consecutive year.

Yehya, born in 1980 and sheltered in AlHusainiya Camp, was kidnapped by pr-government militias at AlHusainiya checkpoint, in Rif Dimashq, on November 28, 2011.