



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



"Storms uproot refugee tents in Deraa amid unprecedented human suffering"

- **ISIS bans the movement of women to the areas of Tahrir Al-Sham's control in Yarmouk camp**
- **"Family dispersion" a tragedy suffered by thousands of Palestinian-Syrian families**
- **Syrian security detainees brothers "Ammar and Khaled Gomaa" for the fourth year**
- **In response to its appeal, Belgium and the Netherlands give their support to UNRWA**

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Latest Developments

The displaced Palestinian and Syrian refugee families, have found displacement again in Deraa city, due to the storms and rains which have lasted days, hitting their tents and uprooting them from their places.

The rain continues, and many tents have been damaged. The water has immersed into all the furniture inside the tents. The low temperatures place a threat on the lives of dozens of children, who are already suffering from the absence of support.

The residents called out for help to all the international and local relief and bodies, demanding that urgent relief work be implemented, to rescue the families that are made up mainly of children and women.



Hundreds of families in south Syria are using these tents as temporary shelters, after being displaced from their houses as a result of bombardments and clashes by the Syrian regime, or because of fleeing ISIS, which committed numerous human rights abuses against the people of the cities and towns of Deraa.



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In another context, AGPS's correspondent in Yarmouk camp, confirmed the news which spoke about the prevention of the checkpoints belonging to ISIS in Yarmouk camp, women from crossing between the areas of its control, to the areas controlled by 'Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham,' previously knowns as Al-Nusra Front.

According to our reporter, ISIS had previously allowed them to move to the areas controlled by 'Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham,' previously knowns as Al-Nusra Front, for only one week, then returning. However, it did not meet its promises and banned them from passing through their checkpoints.

ISIS has taken over Yarmouk camp since the beginning of April 2015, with the aid and support of members of Al-Nusra Front in Yarmouk camp.

In another context, thousands of Palestinian-Syrian families are suffering from major family dispersion across the world. This has placed them in economic, legal and psychological challenges. Members of one family may be distributed across Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and European countries.

This dispersion has led the head of the household to separate from his family, either to travel to find a safe place for his family, or due to the siege which has prevented him leaving the camp to meet with his family. This has doubled the economic requirements of the families. In addition, many countries require that their children's parents are present, in order to carry out certain transactions related to them.



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This fragmentation was compounded by the reluctance of most embassies to grant the Palestinian-Syrian refugees visas to enter their territories. This has prevented a number of refugees from meeting their mothers, fathers or children, especially those in Lebanon, Europe and Turkey.

Thousands of Palestinian-Syrians in Europe have been waiting to be reunited with their families for three years. It takes about a year to get a residence, while a reunion takes about two years. During that period of time, most embassies of the countries in which refugee families are living, refuse to provide them with visas. This has prevented the families from meeting, even while their reunion procedures are complete.

In addition, there is difficulty in reuniting the families who are living across Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt. The embassies of these countries have stopped giving Palestinian-Syrian refugees visas for over three years, preventing them from meeting with their families.

This is also the case for families that are dispersed between Syria and the rest of the world, where most of the refugees who were forced to leave Syria are afraid to return to it in case of potential arrest, especially the youth.

About one third of the Palestinian-Syrian refugees were forced to leave Syria, fearing the bombardments and arrests which have affected hundreds of them.



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The Syrian regime continues to detain Palestinian brothers, “Ammar Gomaa Ibrahim,” aged 34 and “Khaled Gomaa Ibrahim,” aged 40, since September 2013 and to this date. They were arrested while passing through the Syrian regime’s Sabinah checkpoint. No information about their location or conditions of arrest has been revealed. They were residents of Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees.



Syrian security detained many siblings and Palestinian families, including women and children, and their fate remains unknown to this point. Also, cases of deaths among siblings and families have been recorded, who were victims of torture in the Syrian prisons.

The Action Group receives a number of messages and information about the detained Palestinians. They are then documented despite the difficulty of recording information because the Syrian regime continues to hide the fate, names and locations of the detainees. The Group has recorded the detention of 1652 Palestinian refugees in the Syrian regime prisons.



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In the meantime, Belgium announced the day before yesterday, its donation of 23 million dollars to UNRWA. Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo stated that “This support comes from the premise that UNRWA is the last lifeline for many Palestinian refugees.”

The Deputy Prime Minister added that this sum comes as a response to UNRWA's call for compensation for aid, instead of the 65 million dollars which were provided by the US administration, before it decided to freeze its support to the humanitarian agency.

The Netherlands also announced that it will provide 13 millions Euros to UNRWA, and emergency assistance to those Palestinians who are affected by the lack of money.

On the 16th of January, the United States of America said that it will freeze almost half of its primary assistance, which it planned to give UNRWA.

The US Foreign Administration announced that it will provide UNRWA with 60 million dollars, however it will freeze another 65 million dollars for the meantime, noting that UNRWA should run some amendments that it did not clarify.





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Palestinians of Syria: January 19, 2018 Statistics:

- The total number of victims documented by the Action Group is 3640, including 463 women
- 1652 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 1,6456 days in a row
- 204 refugees, mainly in Yarmouk Camp, have died due to lack of medical care and malnutrition
- Water supplies have been cut off Deraa Camp for 1381 days, and 1221 days in Yarmouk Camp
- The Regime army has been in control of Handarat camp for more than 480 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
- 31 thousand refugees are located in Lebanon
- 17 thousand refugees are sheltered in Jordan
- 6 thousand refugees are in Egypt
- 8 thousand refugees are staying in Turkey
- One thousand refugees are present in Gaza