



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



"Elderly Palestinian Refugees in Syria Suffer War-Related Trauma"

- Over 1,700 Palestinians Secretly Held in Syrian Gov't Prisons
- Child Medical Checks Carried out in Daraa Camp South of Syria
- Greece Relieves Grip on Sick Migrants

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Latest Developments

The seven-year warfare rocking the Syrian territories have forced Palestinian refugees, most notably children and the elderly, to endure terrible experiences and witness nightmarish scenes that far exceed one's capacity to get to grips with them.

With scenes of destruction, bloodshed, displacement, and death occurring around the clock, elderly Palestinian refugees have gone traumatized.

Palestinian refugee Abdullah Mohamed, aged 68, suffers major depressive disorders after his family home and two shops have been reduced to rubble in the warfare.



Once a successful business owner, Abdallah Mohamed lived surrounded by his family in Yarmouk refugee camp. Conflict has ravaged Syria in recent years and Abdullah lost his home, shops and family as a result of the unrest. At the age of 68, Abdallah is now scrambling to find a job to support himself.

Following the destructive onslaughts launched on the camp in 2012, Abdullah and his two sons have sought shelter in AlHajar ALAswad



neighborhood. The warfare took away the life of his youngest son, leaving him in a state of unparalleled despair.

“My heart shattered,” he recalls, with tears running down his cheeks. Abdullah and his only surviving son continue to live under siege, often staving off hunger by eating grass.

Abdaullah, who now lives in a small room in al-Zahira, recently returned to Yarmouk to visit his home and shops, which were largely destroyed in April 2018. “Most of the buildings are just mounds of rubble now. I failed to recognize my home and my neighborhood in all that rubble. I feel numb about it. It is heartbreaking to lose everything,” he says.

At the start of the conflict Abdullah dreamt of returning to his home and his re-uniting with his family. Nowadays he is not sure what the future holds.

When Abdullah was able to escape the besieged area of Hajjar AlAswad, he was hit with severe depression. He visited an UNRWA health clinic and was provided anti-depressants to manage the symptoms of depression. Today, he says he knows how to cope, despite missing his family dearly.

Like hundreds of other refugees, Abdullah tries to keep his spirits up, telling his wife and daughter that he is fine on his almost daily calls to Lebanon. “Loneliness is hard. You cannot imagine how hard it is. I wish I could see them,” he sighs. He has not seen his wife for six years.



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Travel to Lebanon is impossible due to travel restrictions. “I cannot wait to kiss and hug my eight-year-old granddaughter. She was only a few months old when she left for Lebanon,” he says. “The hope of meeting my family one day strengthens my resilience and provides me with courage.”

Meanwhile, 1,696 Palestinian refugees have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government dungeons, where 558 others were also tortured to death.

AGPS believes the exact number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the fates and whereabouts of the detainees and the families’ reluctance to report cases of torture and enforced disappearance over retaliation concerns.

AGPS annual report documenting the situation of the Palestinians of Syria in 2017 kept record of the death of 205 Palestinians during 2017 due to war-related incidents, 12 among them were killed under torture in Syrian government dungeons, where 1,644 Palestinians had been locked up.

The report documented the detention of 28 Palestinians in 2017 and the release of 25 others after they had been held captive for varying spans.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to disclose the fate of Palestinian detainees held in its penitentiaries. AGPS believes the cruel torture tactics perpetrated in Syrian government lock-ups amounts to a war crime.



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In the meantime, UNICEF, in partnership with AlBer Charity in Daraa, provided free medical checks for children at UNRWA's alternative schools in Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria. Medicines were handed over to sick children. Women also benefited from the move.



UNRWA clinics and health centers have gone out of operation in the government-held Daraa Camp, exacerbating the health conditions of hundreds of displaced Palestinians taking refuge in the camp.

In another development, Greece's Ministry of Migration Policy issued a resolution to amend asylum procedures for sick and vulnerable migrants stranded on Greek islands.

The asylum-seekers were granted an open residence permit allowing them to leave the islands unconditionally.

Activists called on the Greek government to put the newly-issued resolution into effect so as to tone down the calamitous situation endured by vulnerable migrants.

Palestinian refugees who have fled war-stricken zones to Greece have been denied their rights to visas and prevented from accessing vital facilities. The refugees have also been deprived of uncontaminated water supplies and health care services.