



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



"Activists Lashe out at Parties Pushing for Return of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon to Syria"

- Three Palestinian Returnees from Lebanon Arrested upon Entrance to Syria
- Free Palestine Movement Denies Laying off Gunmen
- Faylak AlSham Battalion in Idlib Releases Palestinian Detainees

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Latest Developments

Head of the National Reconciliation Committee in Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus, Sheikh Mohammed AlOmari, slammed the Palestinian factions in Lebanon and other parties that called for the return of Palestinian refugees to Syria for turning their back on the plight of the Palestine community and manipulating their fate.

AlOmari said such ongoing calls for return are another stab in the back of the Palestinian refugee community fleeing the deadly warfare in Syria.



He said no serious arrangements have been made by such parties as UNRWA, the General Commission for Palestinian Refugees, Palestinian factions in Damascus, or the Syrian government to facilitate the refugees' safe return to their camps.

AlOmari said those who pushed for the return of the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon should have rather coordinated with the official Syrian authorities and Palestinian factions in Damascus so as to provide shelter for the displaced families and work out the situation of the homeless who are left on their own in Damascus streets.



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“We are extremely delighted to receive our Palestinian brothers and sisters back in Syria, however, not through degrading and non-humanitarian routes”, AlOmari further stated.

Secretary of the Popular Palestinian Committees in Lebanon, Abu Iyad AlShaalan, said there exist no official measures to send Palestinians back to Syria against their will.

Earlier this month, the Palestine Liberation Organization’s Department of Refugee Affairs announced the launch of the application processes in Lebanon and Gaza for displaced Palestinians in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip who wish to return to Syria. Instructions were also given by Palestine’s Ambassador in Lebanon to shell out sums of money to ease the refugees’ access to Syria.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government forces arrested three Palestinian refugees on the Lebanese-Syrian borders and transferred them to an unidentified location. The reasons for their detention have not been identified.

The three arrestees have just returned to Syria following calls for return launched by the Palestine Embassy and popular committees.

Activists called on the Palestinian factions and Palestinian Authority to work on releasing the three detainees, holding the Palestine Embassy responsible for their fate due to the lack of coordination with the Syrian authorities.

Sources close to the Palestine Embassy told AGPS that Palestinian families who have returned to Syria have been left on their own and



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that no coordination has been made between the Palestinian Embassy and the concerned popular committees.

In the meantime, the Palestine Free Movement military chief, Saed Abdul Al, denied social media reports about the group's decision to lay off gunmen after it recaptured Yarmouk Camp.

Speaking with Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies, Abdul Al denied the above claims, saying the Free Palestine Movement has rather deployed gunmen at other flashpoints and that a handful of fighters applied for joining the group's political bureau following the recapture of Yarmouk Camp.



Abdul Al reiterated the movement's commitment "to defend every single inch of the Syrian territories."

Recently, sources told AGPS that a number of Palestinian factions in Damascus have laid off dozens of Palestinian gunmen over the past few months.

According to the same sources, the Free Palestine Movement, Fatah AlIntifada, and AlSa'eka group disarmed dozens of pro-government



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fighters and cut off their salaries. Only a handful of gunmen were left in Yarmouk Camp.

In another development, the Faylak AlSham battalion released on Sunday Palestinian refugees arrested on August 13 following an abduction sweep launched in cooperation with the Turkish military in Deir Ballout and AlMuhamadiya refugee camps in Afrin suburbs, north of Aleppo.

The list of arrestees includes 13 Palestinians, among them Mohamed AlHasan and his father, Fadi Shtewi, Samer AlAhmad, Mohamed AlAhmad, Amar Sweis, Saifo Hamo, Abdullah Hamo, and Ishak Hourani. The arrests were carried out on allegations of drug trade and abuse.

Deir Ballout Camp has been set up next to the Turkish-funded Muhamadiya Camp as refugee influx across Syria has increased. The two neighboring camps are home to 1,100 poorly-equipped tents.