



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



"Palestinian Family in Turkey Appeals for Saving Sick Child, Releasing Her Detained Father"

- Displaced Palestinians North of Syria Appeal for Delivery of UNRWA Aids
- Yarmouk Residents Launch Calls for Urgent Reconstruction
- Family of Missing Elderly Palestinian Refugee Appeals for Information

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Latest Developments

The family of the Palestinian refugee Sa'id AlSheikh Khaled, who fled war-torn Syria to Turkey, appealed to the human rights institutions and the Palestinian Ambassador in Turkey to work on releasing Sa'id from Turkish jails and securing treatment for his four-year-old child Malak, whose health has taken a turn for the worse.

The family said they had reached Turkey following a mountainous journey. Medics in Antakia failed to treat Malak. The father decided to work at a Turkish restaurant to secure his child's treatment fees. However, soon after, the Turkish police detained him following a quarrel that flared up at the restaurant. His detention occurred after police found out that he does not hold a "kimlik" visa card.



Prior to his detention, Sa'id kept appealing to the human rights institutions nationwide and overseas to work on providing his child with medical therapy after her health condition deteriorated.

Malak, barely aged four, has been diagnosed with strange symptoms ever since she was six-month-old. Her family said the girl is unable



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to grasp what is going on around her, does not properly eat food, and can hardly stand on her feet.

“In order to feed her, we should grind the food, close her nose so as to help her chew it for she does not know what she exactly has to do”, her father said. “My daughter has grown up in the embattled Yarmouk Camp. Every now and then, doctors used to examine her. But nobody could identify what sort of disease she is exactly suffering from.”

Unofficial statistics indicate that 8,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Meanwhile, dozens of displaced Palestinians who were forcibly deported to northern Syria urged UNRWA to hand them much-needed humanitarian aids with the advent of a freezing winter season, saying they have been subjected to exhaustive crackdowns and intensive inspection on their way to government-run zones to receive aids.





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In appeals emailed to AGPS, the refugees expressed their deep concern over the fate of their children in light of the apathy maintained by UNRWA and other human rights institutions.

The refugees called on UNRWA to hand them over cash and in-kind aids given by donor parties and to reach out to displaced families in opposition-held zones in Idlib and Aleppo, among other tension-stricken areas north of Syria.

UNRWA stipulates that all family members aged 18 and above show up at distribution centers in order to receive their allotted aids.

In the meantime, Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk Camp called on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and press ahead with reconstruction projects.

The families said they have been denied access to their homes by the Syrian security forces under the pretext of ongoing debris-clearance works and in spite of an official decree green-lighting their return.

A few weeks ago, Syria's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faysal Miqdad said the government has officially signaled the go-ahead for the return of Palestinian refugees to Yarmouk Camp.

A decision issued by Syria's Council of Ministers during its weekly session, held on November 11, tasked local authorities in Damascus with rehabilitating infrastructure and destroyed facilities in Yarmouk Camp so as to pave the way for the safe return of the displaced residents.



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Minister of Local Administration and Environment Hussein Makhoul said at the time that the decision aims to task Damascus governorate with missions previously undertaken by Yarmouk municipality in an attempt to boost reconstruction plans and facilitate civilians' return at the soonest time possible.

Activists said, however, that the government forces deployed at the main entrance to Yarmouk stipulated that an access permit be issued by the concerned branches set up in Street 30 and that residence documents be handed over to local authorities in order to allow civilians' access to their homes.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

In another development, the family of Palestinian refugee Awad Deib Issa, aged 58, continues to appeal to the concerned authorities to disclose their relative's condition and whereabouts as he has been missing for the fifth consecutive day.





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Issa disappeared from Daraa Camp, south of Syria, on Wednesday, November 21, as he left his home on way to his workplace.

Issa's fate and location remain shrouded in mystery. Issa, who works as a cleaner, reportedly suffers from psychological disorders.

More than 300 Palestinians have gone missing in war-torn Syria, according to AGPS data.