



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



"Shadi AlAsaad among Thousands of Palestinians with Disabilities Struggling for Survival in War-Torn Syria"

- **Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syrian Gov't Jail**
- **Displaced Palestinian Residents of Yarmouk Undergoing Dire Conditions North of Syria**
- **UN Official Pushes for Urgent Action to Deliver Aids across War-Torn Syria**

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Victims

AGPS documented the death of the Palestinian refugee Ahmed Abdul Rahim Azimeh under torture in Syrian government dungeons.

Government officers told his family that he died on August 3, 2014.

According to AGPS data, 534 Palestinian refugees were killed under torture in Syrian prisons. 1,682 others have been enduring mysterious fates.

Latest Developments

More than 2,300 Palestinian refugees with disabilities in Syria have had their lives marred by the unabated warfare and bloody strife rocking the Syrian territories.

The life of Shadi AlAssad, aged 31, has gone upside down as a result of the raging hostilities.



UNRWA said that two years ago Shadi's life was turned upside down when he was diagnosed with cerebral hydrocephalus. The condition



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impacts both his motor and speech skills and now he communicates with others through messages on his mobile phone.

A biology graduate with a passion for the English language, he used to be married, with a one-year-old son and good job with DHL.

UNRWA said the conversations he used to have with his family are no longer possible. Shadi struggles to formulate words. His Smartphone, hooked to his finger thanks to a phone case, has become his lifeline. This is the only way he can communicate with the outside world. It enables Shadi to interact with the people around him and gives him the freedom to go online.

Adjusting has been hard, admits his 57 years-old mother Dina Bushnaq. “Coping is an ongoing process. It is exhausting and stressful but life has to go on,” she says. With her two other sons overseas and her husband deceased, it is just her and Shadi now. Shadi’s wife filed for divorce when he became disabled and left for Turkey with their son. “He is now three-years-old,” Shadi says, holding up three fingers, and then wiping away a tear.

The conflict in Syria, too, has impacted their lives. They live in Harasta, an area which has seen fighting. Although their house has not been damaged, ongoing military operations have limited their freedom of movement. Even going for a walk, pushing Shadi in his wheelchair, was dangerous, UNRWA added.

Dina is the family’s main breadwinner, working as a primary school teacher. Shadi receives a small pension, but his primary income is cash assistance provided by UNRWA. Their income is spent



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covering the basic costs of living, including electricity and water, in addition to Shadi's numerous medicines.

Assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees, including persons with disabilities, is provided by donors like the European Union. The European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has funded assistance to those with disabilities, as well as female-headed households, like Dina's.

UNRWA said it assists more than 2,300 Palestine refugees with disabilities in Syria and more than 13,143 Palestine refugees in total across all five fields of operation.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinian refugee families displaced from Yarmouk to northern Syria have been subjected to an abject humanitarian situation due to the lack of basic services and separation of family members across local shelters.

Dozens of displaced civilians have been taking cover in makeshift tents in such under-equipped refugee camps as Deir Ballout, where water supplies have almost run out.





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The displaced families appealed to the concerned bodies to work on improving their conditions and securing their access to education and health care, among other vital services.

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 makeshift tents and mobile kitchens that provide daily meals for the impoverished families. The Turkish Red Crescent has been cooperating with AFAD organization to hand over food baskets and offer medical checks in the camp.

In the meantime, the top UN official for humanitarian affairs said Friday that aid should continue to reach millions of people across Syria.

"Humanitarian organizations continue to reach millions of people across Syria. More than 3 million people received food last month alone. But needs in many areas have continued to grow, in particular in the south-west and north-west, as well as in Riqqa," Mark Lowcock, UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, told the Security Council in New York.

With regard to the southwest, Lowcock said the UN and its partners have mobilized a response that was reaching tens of thousands of people there, but some 110,000 newly displaced remained in Quneitra in areas largely cut off from aid.

"The response now needs to be urgently scaled up across the southwest, and in Quneitra in particular," he said.



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On eastern Ghouta, he said its humanitarian needs remained high, though some reports said markets were beginning to function again. "Close to 10,000 people from eastern Ghouta, mostly men between the ages of 15 and 65, are reported to remain in displacement sites across rural Damascus."

Moving up north, Lowcock said since November 2017, the total number of people in need of aid in Aleppo and Idlib governorates has increased by close to 600,000, to a total of 4.2 million, and of these people, half are in acute need.

He added that 182,000 persons have fled their homes southwest of Syria and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Concluding his briefing, the under-secretary-general noted the UN appeal for Syria this year was still substantially underfunded and emphasized the need for safe, unimpeded and sustained access for humanitarian assistance.