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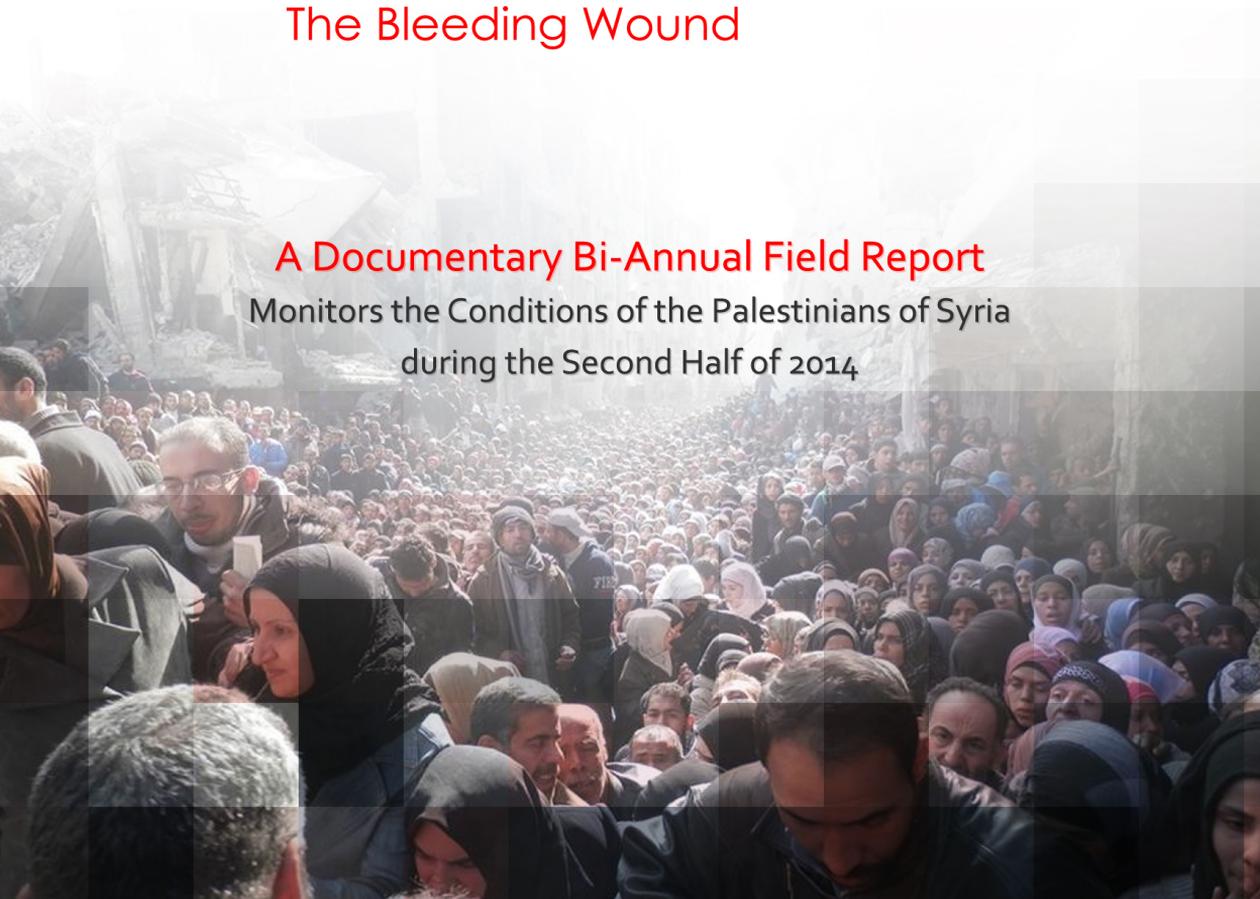
مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre

Palestinians of Syria The Bleeding Wound

A Documentary Bi-Annual Field Report
Monitors the Conditions of the Palestinians of Syria
during the Second Half of 2014



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The Bleeding Wound



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Introduction to the First Bi-Annual Report of 2014

The Syrian conflict, ongoing for more than three years, has led to the deterioration of the general situation of the Palestinian refugees in Syria. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near and Middle East (UNRWA) data illustrate that the majority of the Palestinian refugees in Syria, estimated at 540,000, have become unable to fulfil their basic needs. Refugees have had to spend their saving due to the economic deterioration of their situation - reports indicated that circa 13.9 million Syrians live in poverty and the unemployment rate rose to 49 per cent.

The ongoing conflict's impact on many of the Palestinian camps has been more frequent internal displacement, the breakup of the economic structure of Palestinian refugees in Syria, and the search for asylum in other countries. UNRWA estimates that about 270,000 Palestinian refugees became displaced inside Syria, and 80,000 outside, as 52,000 Palestinian homes were severely damaged; according to mid-2013 statistics, more than 8,100 Palestinian refugees were displaced and a small number of Syrians live in 18 shelters, which were opened in UNRWA facilities in Syria. In addition, more than 3,500 Palestinian refugees have been housed in 13, non-UNRWA, facilities in Damascus, Aleppo and Latakia.

In a report prepared by UNRWA, titled 'Regional Response to the Crises in Syria January-June 2014', UNRWA said that the number of refugees in Syria requiring help was estimated at 420,000 and are in the UNRWA plan for 2014. This number increased to 440,000 refugees who need urgent continuous help during 2014, despite that the majority of the Palestinian refugees remained neutral, but their camps have turned into battlefields between armed groups and Syrian governmental forces.

The report added that basic education was strongly affected by the conflict: 18 school buildings were used for housing the displaced Palestinians and Syrians and 68 school buildings were damaged or became unreachable while 47,000 students out of 66,000 have joined the new school year as UNRWA came to use alternative facilities. Meanwhile the Ministry of Education allowed UNRWA to introduce a night shift in 43 public schools.

In terms of UNRWA health services, 13 primary health care centers, out of 23, were closed due to the conflict. The Palestinian refugees who left to the surrounding countries suffer

discrimination when they try to cross the borders whether to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Tunisia, Libya or to other asylum countries. The refugees also endure difficult legal conditions, which lead them to difficult living situations, where many of them prefer returning to Syria in spite of the danger that they may face there.

The siege imposed on the Yarmouk camp continues in spite of launching several initiatives, also the residents of Al Hussaineia and Sbeina camps are still prevented of returning back to their camps even after the armed groups left and the Syrian state controls the two camps.

Dar'aa and Dar'aa Al Tawaree camps and the Palestinian compounds in Dar'aa; such as Al Muzaireeb, Jellien and other compounds are exposed to bombing almost daily, as well as Khan Al Shieh camp, which was targeted with explosive barrels several times. Meanwhile, Khan Dannoun and Jaramana camps witnessed the fall of shells, once in a while, because of the direct and indirect targeting.

In terms of victims, the number of victims has increased greatly, particularly from starvation and siege during the first half of 2014, and many victims were killed in the clashes fronts alongside the regime forces.

For further information you can see the status report "Palestinians of Syria between the Hope of Return, and the Bitterness of Reality".

<http://goo.gl/5UAWlv>



The General Situation and the Sequence of Events for the Conditions of the Palestinian Refugees in Syria during the Second Half of 2014:

Some Palestinian camps in Syria have become battlefields, and some others were imposed with a strict siege by the regular army and the Palestinian factions loyal to it; such as the PFGC, the Palestinian Struggle Front, and Fatah-Intifada. The main role of these forces are to tighten the siege through the checkpoints that prevent the return of the residents to their homes in camps, which were settled and subsided, in which the victory became for the Syrian government, or prevent the introduction of medical and food supplies to other camps closed by the pretext of the presence of armed men inside, and that what created tragic living situations, especially after the loss of the necessary basics of life such as food, medicine and water.

According to the statistics that are documented by the documentation team of the AGPS, the number of the Palestinian Syrian martyrs, since the beginning of the Syrian events till the end of December 2014, has reached 2,596 victims.

Aerial and artillery shelling are the most prominent reasons that led to many victims, while the Palestinian camps and compounds in Syria were targeted with mortars, rockets, and explosive barrels, as some other camps were targeted by warplanes that killed dozens at a time.

Palestinian refugees in Syria are still enduring continuous injustices, in light of the great escalation of the ongoing events, where the residents of Husseinia and Sbeina camps are still prevented from returning to their homes and properties. Meanwhile, others remain forgotten under systematic siege and shelling; such as Yarmouk and Khan Al Shieh camps. In addition to the Dar'aa and Handarat camps in Aleppo, which endured great destruction, the rest of the camps are suffering from stressful living conditions.

1. The Yarmouk Camp

More than 25,000 civilians inside the Yarmouk camp are still captives of the strict siege imposed by the regular army from mid-July 2013, which have led to a shortage of basic necessities. 1,011 victims from the Yarmouk refugee camp have died since the beginning of events in Syria, according to the documentation team of the AGPS. This includes 461 victims who died in the first half of 2014, the rate of deaths decreased by 43 per cent as by the second half of 201, 262 more victims emerged. 75 of those (28.5 per cent) were from the Yarmouk refugee camp.

Shelling, Clashes, and Assassinations

A state of tension and insecurity prevailed in the Yarmouk camp during the second half of 2014 as a result of the shelling that targeted the camp after renewed clashes between the armed groups affiliated to the Syrian opposition and the regular army alongside the PFGC. The clashes led to more victims, as different parts of the camp were targeted with a number of shells, most violent shellings were on 9 September 2014 after Syrian warplanes targeted the camp with two raids that targeted the vicinity of Safareyat Al Karmel area at Orouba street, leading to some injuries among the civilians and a mass destruction of the buildings, followed by a number of mortar shells that targeted the same place.

On 15 September 2014, a number of shells targeted different places of the camp and resulted in the death of "Deyaa Al Safouri" shell wound, whose shell was dropped at Al Rija square, the adjacent lanes, Al Forn Al Aly street, and the vicinity of Al Masnoura school, which led to a number of injuries. The shelling coincided with violent clashes at Al Zahira neighborhood following the entry of the armed opposition that clashed with the members of the regular army checkpoints.

On 18 July 2014, clashes broke out between the Syrian opposition groups and "Daash" resulting in a series of assassinations and arrest campaigns. The most prominent was the arrest of Khalil Al Zaghmout, known as Abu Hashim, an official of the armed brigades in the camp, by Al Nosra front members. Meanwhile, an armed group harassed and beat the major colonel "Khalid Al Rokn", leader of the desertion PLO group.

A state of anger and tension prevailed amongst the Yarmouk residents due to the rising pace of assassinations, political arrest campaigns, and the spread of car bombs during the second half of 2014, which targeted a number of Palestinian figures in the Yarmouk camp. On 19 October 2014, an explosive device was planted in a parked car near Al Basil hospital at Izz Al Dein Al Qassam Street with no injuries.

On 27 October 2014, a mortar shell was dropped at the Yarmouk camp and resulted in the death of four victims; three of them were leaders at Aknaf Bait Al Maqdes opposition brigades, and one baby girl "Tala Ahmed Farhan Alian", a year and seven months old.

On 2 December 2014, Abu Mohammed Raji, a member of Aknaf Bait Al Maqdis brigades, was killed due to the mortar shells that were dropped at the Yarmouk camp.

The Yarmouk without Water

Water that was provided through the water network from adjacent areas to the camp, was stopped from 9 September 2014, exacerbating the suffering throughout the camp. Residents were then forced to spend tens of hours waiting for water from adjacent areas, and walked long distances, risking their lives in order to secure water for their children.

The owners of the water pumping stations in the Yarmouk camp, which had not been working for the past four years, launched an initiative on 17 September 2014 to resolve the water crisis in the Yarmouk camp and the adjacent areas. The initiative came through an invitation to the concerned bodies and the Syrian government to provide the station with power in order to pump water towards the pro-Syrian regime areas in Damascus so that the water level would increase in the Yarmouk camp and the south of Damascus, as well as the adjacent areas. The initiative organisers called relevant humanitarian bodies to support the initiative and liaise with the concerned parties in order to end the water crisis in the Yarmouk camp. However, this call has gone unattended due to the lack of Syrian state attention.

This crisis saw the emergence of a social media campaign through facebook, entitled 'The Yarmouk Camp is Thirsty, The Yarmouk camp Calls that We want to live', launched on 19 September 2014 by activists inside the camp. Its aim was to shed light on the devastating consequences resulting from the continuation of water cuts on the Yarmouk refugee camp, and a demand to the ending of the camp's siege. Another campaigns were launched

on 29 September 2014 entitled “We Want – Live...Thirst – Under- the Siege”, in order to shed light on the suffering of the Yarmouk residents due to the siege.

Provision of drinking water has been facilitated, however, by working committees and bodies within the camp, for example through water reservoirs. The prices for this are high, however, and fuel needed is scarce because of the siege. For example, the Palestine Charity Committee operates and activates new wells in Abdul-Qader Al-Husseini garden in the Yarmouk refugee camp, which is to support the water manhole in the park that is supervised by the Committee.

The Jafra foundation also launched a campaign entitled “Water Drop” in order to provide water for the Yarmouk camp’s residents, where the services team reclaimed and operated four artesian wells inside the camp, and repaired two pumps to be used in water extraction. Five water storage points were also established around the camp, in those areas that were distant from available water sources. Ataa Charity foundation, provided diesel fuel and gasoline to the people of the camp, in order to help them pump water from artesian wells that were also activated by the staff of the foundation.

Initiatives and Appeals for Ending the Siege

The mobility of initiatives seen in the first half of 2014 to improve the conditions of the Yarmouk camp, slowed down, in the second half of the year. The initiatives remained on paper only, which led to popular discontent within the Yarmouk refugee camp and restlessness of the failure of reaching a more serious agreement to end the crisis and break the siege of the camp.

Despite the initiatives and multiple agreements signed between the Syrian government, civil and relief institutions, and armed brigades inside the camp (the last agreement was signed by the President of Intelligence Palestine Branch, representatives of the Syrian government, in addition to a number of representatives of brigades and agencies working in the camp), none of these had been fulfilled at the time of preparing this report.

These initiatives witnessed considerable mobility on 31 July 2014, after an agreement was reached between armed brigades inside the camp and the Syrian government on a number of points to end the siege and tensions in the camp. The security committee emanating

from the initiative began its work, distributing its members by the camp entrances at Palestine square, Yalda, Al Hajar Al Aswad, and Al Zein neighborhood.

Meanwhile the services department at Palestine Charity Committee created sand mounds by bulldozers in order to close the entrances and agreed to resume the work of the Damascus governorate to clean the rubbles of the damaged buildings in Yarmouk Street between the entrance of the camp and Al Rija Square. This coincided with the entrance of the maintenance team to repair electricity lines so that the road will be ready to be reopened after the cleaning process for the return of the residents. Furthermore, the file of the Palestinian detainees in the Syrian prisons was mentioned in the meetings that were held between all the parties, and they agreed to form a committee to follow-up this issue.

On 8 August 2014, a civilian delegation, who oversaw the signing of the neutralisation agreement, entered the camp. They entered to witness the surrender of youths to the Syrian authorities in order to regularise their status in the implementation of the framework of the initiative provisions. The delegation was met by gunfire however, as they were shot upon by Al Nosra Front members, leading to the injury of 'Naim Al-Khatib' a member of the popular mobility in the Yarmouk refugee camp, who was shot in the foot and taken to hospital. In addition, a number of people in the camp carried out a demonstration demanding the immediate implementation of the initiative terms, and to accelerate ending the siege for the return of displaced people.

Nazmi Gazelle, the mediator between the parties of the neutralisation initiative, stated that many obstacles were in place in order to see the initiatives fail, including new terms for the implementation of the initiative such as the entry of fuel to the camp. The armed groups accused the regular army and the PFGC of obstructing the efforts to break the siege of Yarmouk.

The Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, noted the actions of extremist groups hindering the return of residents to the Yarmouk camp but stated that "what is happening in Syria is an internal matter not related to us".

Abbas said in previous statements, delivered in front of the Revolutionary Council of "Fatah", that the PFGC is responsible for the crisis in Yarmouk. The PFGC condemned those statements, however, accusing Abbas of immersing in the actions against the Syrian regime.

A joint statement was issued by 11 bodies and civil institutions in the Yarmouk camp in Damascus, on 2 July 2014. It appealed that all parties take immediate action to address the humanitarian situation in the Yarmouk refugee camp, in particular, during the month of Ramadan, by opening the roads that exit and enter the Yarmouk camp, so as to deliver food and medical aid, and resume basic services, especially the provision of drinking water.

Meanwhile, the civil council in the Yarmouk refugee camp issued a statement, where academics, lawyers and engineers within the camp held ethical responsibility to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon for protecting the besieged refugees for more than a year. The statement also attributed moral responsibility for the suffering of camp residents to the senior United Nations officials in Syria for not fulfilling their duty towards them, referring to the party that impeded the implementation of UN resolution 2139 on humanitarian aid, according to the statement. The statement called on all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and not use civilians as a tool for political gains.

The local council in the Yarmouk refugee camp, on 10 August 2014, appealed, in a statement, that all those involved. This included the Palestine Embassy in Syria, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and UNRWA. It stated that they should work to alleviate the suffering of the besieged people, who have been suffering for one year and counting, and to allow the entry of basic materials. The statement also stressed the need for fuels and heating materials, particularly gas cylinders, to be allowed into the camp for cooking and heating especially in the presence of winter, which would help to stop theft of these remaining goods from properties within the Yarmouk refugee camp. On 16 August 2014 another social media campaign was launched with the hashtag #WeWanttoLive to raise awareness and motivate the public to put pressure on the signatories of the initiative to neutralise the camp and to implement its terms.

On 26 October 2014, the people of the Yarmouk refugee camp, and representatives of the Palestinian forces and factions delivered "SOS" letters to several political and international figures, calling for an end of the siege and a return to normal life. They stressed that ignoring their desperation would lead to mortality and depletion of basic necessities: water, food, electricity, medicines and medical and health facilities.

Education

Despite the siege, shelling, looting and damage done to the school, a campaign took place to clean up the schools, remove rubble and open a number of alternative schools. The following schools were opened: "Al Amal alternative school", Al Taqadom neighborhood-Al Orouba street, "Damascene alternative school", 30th neighborhood, Al Taqadom Street, "Al Azma alternative school", western Yarmouk, and "Al Jarmaq alternative school - school Street. This enabled them to continue the education process within the available resources through efforts of teachers from the camp.

The relief and educational organisations in the Yarmouk refugee camp announced, on 29 August 2014 that an agreement had been reached unification education inside the camp. The announcement came after several meetings held by these institutions to come up with a mechanism aimed at improving the educational process within The following official bodies were appointed as official supervisors for the educational policy in the camp; they are: Al Amal Kindergarten, located in the Al Easha building to be responsible for the pre-primary stage, the unification of first and second educational grades in one school, Jarmaq School, and the integration of the teachers in the rest of the schools in the staff of Jarmaq school depending on experience and needs, as Abdul-Qader Al-Husseini secondary school is considered the educational framework of the secondary stage from the first to the third secondary grades.

The statement stressed that these organisations are the only official educational recognised bodies inside the camp by all parties, as the relief organisations role will be providing all necessary support at all levels to the success of the educational process in these institutions.

The statement also confirmed that it established a unified educational office consisting of the heads of the educational bodies and the representative of relief organisations. Their role was to implement the work plan and ensure commitment to the policy for the benefit of the camp's children.

In conclusion, the statement demanded that the officials of the General Authority for the Palestinian Refugees should support this policy so that education can be effectively implemented in the Yarmouk refugee camp for the camp's children to be guaranteed some future. High school students were allowed to reenter the camp on 8 January to join the supplementary session of the secondary certificate, to return to the camp.

Medical Supplies

A severe shortage of medicines, medical and personnel supplies has been felt throughout the camp. This has led to the spread of many chronic diseases and consequentially death. Medical staff in the camp have warned of worrying numbers, receiving between 10 and 15 cases a day of fever, typhoid and anemia; and the spread of many chronic and communicable diseases such as Tuberculosis. The number of people with typhoid fever (typhus) inside the camp reached 110 with no access to drugs for treatment. Many diseases were also caused due to lack of water and fluids such as kidney stones.

On 13 July 2014 “Ahmed Hassan Al-Aidi,” died from jaundice as the lack of medical supplies meant he could not be treated.

A quantity of disinfectants, antipyretic, and typhoid (typhus) vaccines were allowed into the Yarmouk refugee camp, and handed over to the Palestine hospital. A vaccine campaign was also carried out near Rama Road, as 850 vaccines were allocated for this campaign.

According to a doctor from inside the camp the spread of disease resulted from the dependence on contaminated water wells and eating vegetables from Yalda contaminated orchards. The doctor also warned of the high number of deaths, amid the absence of treatment, and the siege of the camp.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) began a campaign on 21 July 2014, to disinfect the water inside Yarmouk’s houses as part of their Protection campaigns related to the spread of epidemics, and awareness campaigns to maintain personal and general hygiene implemented by the PRCS.

The PRCS in the Yarmouk refugee camp received, on 25 July 2014, a group of multiple vaccines for children from the GAPR and the Palestinian embassy. The PRCS medical team continued its protection work through the vaccine campaign against polio, performing awareness activities on hygiene and proper conduct, and disinfecting drinking water. The team finished sterilising water at the Eighth of March neighborhood, Al Orouba, Al Taqadom, Moroccan lane, the vicinity of Palestine Mosque, Ain Ghazal Street and Alrija Square.

On 30 July a number of PRCS staff members and volunteers in the Yarmouk refugee camp carried out a sit in, in solidarity with their families and colleagues still in the Gaza Strip against what looked like deliberate targeting of RCS centers and medical staff. As the director of the PRCS and its staff confirmed their support, and expressed their condemnation on targeting medical centers and staff, describing that as violating all laws, international norms and Geneva Conventions.

Medical centers and hospitals in the Yarmouk camp have also been repeatedly bombed destroying and causing to malfunction medical devices such as operation devices, ambulances as well as ambulance crews. Some hospitals are still working, but in minimum capacity, as the siege has prevented the entry of personnel, medical supplies and medicine; power cuts have continued and fuel has been prevented from entering the camp, which is needed to operate these hospitals.

On 12 August 2014, the PRCS cadres and volunteers at Yarmouk implemented a sit-in in honour of the volunteer, Maher Nihad Hameed, who died in the prisons of Syrian regime from torture. On 11 September 2014, for World First Aid Day, the PRCS in the Yarmouk refugee camp, graduated attendees of the course of martyr Diab Muhana students in nursing, set up by the Palestine hospital to prepare trained medical staff in the camp. On 7 December, the PRCS also conducted a vaccination campaign against polio, in its center in Deir Yassin, for all children under five years of age.

Living Conditions

Residents of the Yarmouk camp are still suffering from the impact of the 600 day siege imposed on them by the Regular Army and the PFGC. It has led to the death of 157 victims due to the lack of medical care. The residents have complained of continuous water, electricity and internet service cuts, in addition to the lack of medical supplies, medicine and fuel, which prompted them and the agencies working on the camp to appeal to international organisations and the United Nations to intervene to break the siege and provide all the basic necessities of life.

The civil Council sent, on 5 September 2014, several messages on behalf of the camp's residents and institutions to Ali Mustafa, the Director General of the General Organisation

for Palestinian refugees, the Director of UNRWA - Syrian territory and the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Syria, calling for the need to allow fuel and cooking gas to provide heating particularly with the winter season descending. The letter stated that fuel entry to the camp protects the empty homes and its furniture from defacers and their quest to burn all that can be burned; such as furniture, trees and electricity poles.

A complaint was also made of the accumulation of waste in large quantities in the lanes and alleys of the Yarmouk camp as it attracted insects and caused the spread of epidemics. The residents responded by burning waste. These problems have again been caused by the ongoing siege and suspension of regular services and health facilities.

Siege Management

Demands of the Yarmouk residents are not limited to food, basic materials are allowed into the camp by UNRWA, but rather practical steps are wanted to terminate the dire humanitarian situation and to neutralise it by applying the terms of initiatives. That is allowing those outside Yarmouk to return to it, and to place the camp on an equal footing with other surrounding areas such as Yalda, Babbila, and Beit Sahem, which have all signed a truce with the Syrian regime.

UNRWA warned of its inability to provide humanitarian aid to the Yarmouk refugee camp because of clashes and shelling that accompanied the distribution of food baskets, which led to the suspension of distribution several times. On 5 August 2014, the Yarmouk camp witnessed violent clashes during the distribution of food aid, which resulted in two victims, Raed Derbas, a PFGC member, and Kamela Mohammed Hasan. The clashes also resulted in that receiving food aid to sustain injuries. Eyewitnesses confirmed that the clashes broke out between the PFGC and Fatah members, however, Fatah denied this through its website.

On 6 August 2014, a Yarmouk refugee camp resident was shot in the foot by a sniper while waiting for aid near Al Rija Square at the center of the camp. Abdel Nasser Mawed, was also injured by a sniper on 11 September 2014, while distributing aid to the besieged people in the Yarmouk refugee camp. Fatoom Qada Bashi, an elderly woman was also shot by a sniper in her hand on 9 October 2014, during the resumption of UNRWA food aid distribution.

According to the testimony of one of the camp's residents, "whenever the food aid delivery date comes, the snipers open their fire at the Yarmouk camp residents in order to prevent the distribution of relief aid". He also added that the parties to the conflict are responsible for protecting the people of Yarmouk during the distribution of aid. UNRWA has limited its distribution of food aid to three days a week: Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Yarmouk residents complained of the poor mechanism of distributing food aid. According to one, "the distribution process is marred with manipulation, favouritism, and lack of studied distribution mechanisms, and finally, 1,200 families out of the 4,000 families were recorded inside the camp, which means depriving many families of food aid", adding "there are families who have received more than one food basket, while there are families till now have not received a single food parcel", as he attributed this to "favoritism and manipulation in the registration of some of those in charge of distribution".

2. Khan Al Shieh Camp

The residents of Khan Al Shieh camp, located 40 KM southwest of the capital Damascus, have complained about the lack of security and safety because of the events taking place in Syria. Shelling has targeted the camp and the adjacent farms and areas with explosive barrels, which has increased in the second half of 2014, causing many casualties and wounded, as the number of the camp's victims has reached 93.

Most Permanent Events of the Camp

- On 1 July 2014, warplanes dropped two explosive barrels targeting Al Makhfar Street in the center of the camp, resulting in the death of Khalil Isa and a number of wounded; some of them were severely wounded, in addition to the mass destruction of the civilians' houses and properties.
- On 14 July 2014, heavy shelling with two explosive barrels targeted the western vicinity of the camp.
- On 25 July 2014, a mortar shell targeted Al Makhfar Street and resulted only in material damages.
- On the 26 July 2014 a shell was dropped on a house and resulted in two victims and a number of injuries, in addition to great destruction in the area.

- On the 18 August 2014, the young woman, Hala Fayez Sanad, was killed and a number of residents were injured after an explosive barrel was dropped on the western area of the camp and resulted in the damage of their properties.
- On the 31 August 2014, four explosive barrels targeted Al Iskan crossing, the main Street, and the vicinity of the western villas street, and resulted in a number of injuries and severe damages of houses, and general and private properties.
- On 1 October 2014, the warplanes targeted the camp with four explosive barrels at the vicinity of Al Rida Street, and Al Iskan Military Street, which resulted in the death of Souria Al Abbas and a number of injuries.
- On the 6 and 7 October 2014, warplanes continued raids and dropped explosive barrels that targeted the eastern lane, causing a severe destruction of the civilians' houses.
- On the 20 November 2014, Al Rahman mosque was targeted by a rocket burning it down.

Violations towards the Camp's Residents

The residents of Khan Al Shieh camp were exposed to kidnappings, killings, and arrests by the Regular Army and Syrian Opposition groups, as the Regular Army closed the only road linking the camp with its vicinity, and became vulnerable to sniping, where two women, Fatma Nijim and Fatma Salah, were shot at this road.

Four refugees were arrested: Mai Samir, arrested at Koukab checkpoint, Mohammed Fares Aissat, arrested at a checkpoint near the Palestine Branch in Damascus, and two brothers, Ayham and Mohammed Suleiman, arrested on Al Qateifa checkpoint in Damascus suburb.

On 3 November 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested the young man, Hani Saleh Kamel, at Al Qateifa checkpoint.

A bus carrying civilians was also shot at while passing Zakia - Khan Al Shieh road. Residents are forced to go through this road despite its danger, since all roads that link the camp with the adjacent areas were closed several months ago due to clashes and shelling. In addition, the Syrian opposition groups, recently, have committed several violations towards the camps' residents, on 9 July 2014, they have shot residents leading to two victims: Mohammed Methqal Al Qadeia, and Mohammed Saleh Saleh, and a number of injuries, two of them were recognised as Esam Hussein and Ali Hamadeh.

On 16 July 2014, the Syrian opposition groups broke into the camp wearing heavy armoured clothing at Al Makhfar and schools Street, causing panic among the residents. Those groups also arrested some residents and led them to an unknown destination.

On 20 July 2014, Wael Abu Zahra was kidnapped by a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition. They released Mohammed Khneifis and another young man from the same family called Aba Irfan.

On the 3 August 2014, the group broke into the camp, raided and inspected the home of Saleh Mohammed Jerwan, in search of the wanted man, Moean Jerwan. As the group killed the young, Muhammad Jerwan, they also raided the home of Mr. Ahmed Al Ramly, a teacher in UNRWA schools and detained him.

On 2 September 2014, a state of discontent and dissatisfaction prevailed among the residents of the camp, after hearing the news of the death of the young Farouk Abu Mitha due to torture by Al-Nosra Front, a month after his arrest. Furthermore, on the 28 October 2014, a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition kidnapped Mohammed Nayef Salah, one of the UNRWA staff, who works as a guard in schools, which led to the spread of a state of tension and fear among the people of the camp.

Accordingly, the residents stressed non-involvement of the camp with the conflict in Syria, and made assurances that the camp had only unarmed civilians. They also appealed to all concerned parties international, represented by United Nations and UNRWA, the Palestinian factions and the PLO to intervene in order to lift the injustice and oppression on all residents of the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, including Khan Al Shieh camp.

Khan Al Shieh, Damascus - the Road of Death

Khan Al Shieh camp is 25 KM away from the capital, Damascus, strategically located as it links Damascus with Qunaitra. This important location and the geographical intrusion with the adjacent areas made the camp and its main road vulnerable to shelling, clashes, and sniping. However, its residents' suffering started with the closure of Drousha main road, a road that leads into the camp after the control of the Free Army at the camp and

several adjacent areas; such as Al Mansheia-Al Abbasa- Skeik. The members of the 68th brigade checkpoint closed the road and imposed a siege on the camp and its neighboring areas, preventing the entry of food and fuel impacting greatly on the camp.

Residents and dignitaries were prompted to launch calls for an alternative means to sustain normal life inside the camp and a new road was used as the link between Damascus and the city of Quneitra i.e. Al Mansheia to Al Salam highway. However, sniping and renewed clashes meant that these efforts ceased. The people and dignitaries of Khan Al Shieh camp made communications again with the parties to the conflict for an alternative road to be found and Zakia - Khan Al Shieh road was selected so the camp was connected with Zakia area, controlled by the Free Army; , the area lives in a state of calm after an implicit agreement with the regime.

Zakia - Khan Al Shieh road, the only road connecting Khan Al Shieh camp with Damascus city center, became a lifeline for the residents of the camp, as they managed, through it, to enter all their basic needs of food, medical and fuel, and communicate with the city center of Damascus. However, the deteriorated security situation that has occurred in the surrounding areas made this way vulnerable to shelling and sniping against civilians in particular. The shelling and sniping of Zakia road resulted in three victims and more than twenty wounded because of sniper attacks. The road has since been targeted by Shilka tanks and heavy artillery machine guns.

All those incidents made residents of the camp call the road the 'the Road of Death' as the life-threatening danger was real. On the 6 August 2014, a mini bus was targeted by sniper shot and resulted in the injury of a civilian, while on the 7 August 2014, Fatma Nejm and Fatma Salah were also shot by a sniper.

On the 21 August 2014, Muntaha Qasim Abdo was killed and a number of civilians were injured after the bus they were traveling on was targeted by gunfire and shells.

On 13 September 2014, a car was targeted as it was passing through Zakia, the car exploded and many civilians were injured, in addition to a bus that was transporting civil employers belonging to the electricity company. Another bus of civilians and university students was targeted, which led to the death of one more victim.

A closed car, transporting gas canisters into the camp, exploded after it was targeted by a shell at Zakia Khan Al Shieh road.

According to all previous data, and the escalation and the targeting of innocents and civilians, who declared repeatedly their neutrality of the conflict in Syria, a number of dignitaries held a meeting with a delegation from the national Palestinian factions to find a solution to the problem of targeting Zakia -Khan Al Shieh road, which is the only road linking the camp to the city center and other areas. After this meeting, the dignitaries met with the parties to the conflict, represented by the military leadership at Khan Al Shieh area, to put an alternative road to the camp, Khan Al Shieh camp road that passes through Al Qosour area to Artoz. Despite the ruggedness of the road, the residents have agreed to keep their lives during transportation. However, the suffering of the people of the camp had not finished, and continued because of the outbreak of fighting on the proposed new road, prompting them to communicate again with the concerned authorities, and agreed to an alternative new road; Al Zohour Street, but the Syrian opposition forces firmly rejected that proposal without justification.

Civil Work Committees at Khan Al Shieh Camp

At the beginning of events in Syria, the bodies and relief organisations operating in the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, had a prominent role when it came to new arrivals - receiving and containing them. These associations considered all avenues to alleviate the suffering and provide relief services to residents. In this report we highlight the work of these bodies and institutions, particularly those who work on the ground in Khan Al Shieh camp and the services they provide the residents and displaced people in the camp. Charity Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People:

Since the committee was demarcated in 2008, it has assisted Palestinian people inside and outside the camp, as it implemented various charitable projects to address the needs of the camp such as provision of orphanages, supporting educational welfare projects through Palestinian Student Care, distributing stationery for orphans and poor children, honoring excellent students, caring of university students, and providing them with tuition fees and other aid that would facilitate their educational careers.

The work of the Committee emerged under the Syrian crisis, since it has responded to emergencies and calamities that have befallen the Palestinian camps and is therefore, a distinguished body within the camp.

In Khan Al Shieh camp, the Committee's work became very active after hundreds of Palestinian families were displaced from the Yarmouk refugee camp, as it distributed relief and material assistance to the residents as well as the displaced people in shelters. Its mechanic team was also deployed to repair the water pump with the aim of continuing the flow of water to the residents of the camp and preventing water cuts. The committee also cooperated with the PBX of Khan Al Shieh workers to rehabilitate it after defacers damaged it as well as returning telecommunication and internet to the camp. It also implemented many recreational activities to support them psychologically and support their spirits.

However, its relief role, according to a testimony of a relief activist inside Khan Al Shieh camp, retreated slowly, while its work was limited to cleaning and lighting shelters, and media coverage.

Palestine Charity Committee (PCC)

The PCC's stated objective is to "lend a helping hand to the Palestinian people, to care about them, to develop their abilities and potentials to be an effective element in society, and to be able to help themselves and their families and others through rehabilitation, education and training programs". It worked on the empowerment and strengthening of the Palestinian refugee communities through productivity development projects that provide jobs for the needy, decreasing the unemployment rate, and contributing to constant improvement of their living conditions.

The PCC has worked to rehabilitate its cadres of volunteers and train them to provide emergency relief. The committee has succeeded in providing various services for all Palestinian camp residents in general, and Khan Al Shieh camp in particular, where it had an active role in helping the displaced people who came to Khan Al Shieh camp on 21 July 2012. The committee expanded its volunteer staff to provide relief assistance permanently for approximately 1,000 families in the camp, as well as assistance for students, infants and the elderly.

The PCC also took it upon themselves to sponsor the shelter centers, which were established in Al-Huda mosque. It provided it with all of its supplies and relief aid; it serviced projects for poor families; provided psychosocial support and other basic services for children in shelters; purchased equipment for the maintenance of the electricity grid, maintenance of the PBX of Khan Al Shieh communication and operation as well as providing all needed supplies, rubble removal, and maintaining the cleanliness of the camp, until it became, according to a statement a volunteers, “a safe haven for the residents of the camp and a first destination for the camp’s public affairs”.

Himma Youth Voluntary Group

A youth group was launched in 2012 to support the development and social process and improvement of the groups’ youth abilities. They promoted the concept of volunteerism in order to find a space of participation and social solidarity, starting with Khan Al Shieh camp and ending with the Palestinian compounds all over the world, and to support and interact with them.

The activities of this group have developmental and psychological benefits as they carry out many summer recreational activities and clubs in order to set up psychological support for children of the camp and shelter centers. They hold a number of seminars and workshops in order to rehabilitate their staff and raise the scientific and cultural knowledge to face all the challenges and difficulties experienced by the camp.

Hemma group began its relief work in the camp after the arrival of large numbers of displaced persons, providing food aid. It implemented a project on the 28 January 2014 entitled, ‘A Smell of Warmness’, which included the distribution of quantities of firewood to approximately 400 families in Khan Al Shieh camp. The group also contributed to the clean-up of the UNRWA clinic after it was closed for a long time due to the deteriorated security situation in the camp.

Within the group’s effort, Hemma group, in collaboration with Jafra Foundation for Relief and Development, implemented a project carrying the slogan ‘A Drop of Water’, which aims to provide drinking water through mobile water tanks to be distributed to the people in the camp.

Living Conditions

The tense situation around the camp casts a shadow over the residents who have suffered great difficulties in entering food supplies and fuel to their camp due to the Syrian regime's checkpoints closure of all roads connecting the camp and the surrounding areas. The road closures resulted in a rise in the price of foodstuffs and a reduction in variety. This is because the price of a litre of fuel reached about \$1.5, while the price of a gas cylinder reached \$13, and the price of a ton of firewood, which is used for heating, reached circa \$250.

At the same time, people of the camp suffer from water problems due to power outages for long periods, which led to the suspension of any work being carried out on the water pumps for several days.

3. Dar'aa Camp

The continuous shelling of explosive barrels and the frequent clashes, which broke out at Dar'aa camp south of Syria during the last few months, have led to the destruction of 70 per cent of its houses, according to an unofficial study.

The AGPS documentary team confirmed that the number of victims from Dar'aa camp, since the beginning of the Syrian war, has reached 188 victims.

Most Permanent Events of the Camp:

- On the 15 July 2014, the Syrian warplanes targeted Dar'aa camp for the Palestinian refugees in southern Syria with an explosive barrel, which led to the death of at least 9 victims including Amani Mohamed Emara, Mohamed Saad Emara, Kholoud Mahmoud Bardan, Manaf Abdel Nasser Al Masri, the girl Marah Waseim Matar, the child Hamza Wasiem Matar, Ayman Youssef, Mohammed Yusuf Abdul Qadir, and Jameila Yusuf Abdul Qadir.
- Maria Abdo Snaidi, a young girl of Palestinian nationality, died at Al Ramtha hospital, Jordan, due to her injuries by the shelling that targeted Al Muzeireeb town in Dar'aa and resulted in dozens of wounded.
- On 10 October 2014, heavy shelling targeted the camp and led to the death of the young man, Fawaz Al-Naimis.

- On 1 October 2014, the Syrian opposition forces, which controls Dar'aa camp in cooperation with the GPRS, loaded sand barriers at Regular army checkpoints in order to protect the camp residents from the heavy deployment of snipers in the areas looking on its lanes and streets, which led to the siege of the camp, and the inability of free movement for fear of being targeted by snipers who shoot at anything moving in the streets.

Living Conditions

Dar'aa camp is suffering from a severe shortage of medical and basic services due to the destruction of wide areas, in addition to the great demolition of the infrastructure due to heavy shelling that targeted the camp and the neighboring areas during the last months. The residents have complained of the embargo on relief aids into the camp, especially UNRWA aid, prompting families to flee to neighboring areas and villages. Residents have also complained about water cuts for the 5th consecutive month. It is this that has forced them to walk long distances for drinking water, placing them in danger from sniper fire.

4. Al Sayeeda Zainab Camp

Al Sayeeda Zainab camp endures many problems, particular economic. House and food prices have increased and the camp is considered to be one of the quietest Palestinian camps, as it is completely controlled by the Regular Army with checkpoints surrounding its entrances and the adjacent areas.

The AGPS reported 40 Palestinian Syrian victims had died at Al Sayeeda Zainab Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus suburb since the beginning of the conflict until the end of August 2014.

On 28 October 2014, UNRWA opened the Yarmouk School for basic education and health clinic after refurbishment and rehabilitation following the destruction as a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

5. Al Nairab Camp

Al Nairab camp has endured a state of instability and insecurity due to the deteriorated security situation in the areas surrounding the camp and the involvement of some of its residents in fighting alongside the Syrian Army. This made the camp vulnerable to the shelling that targeted different areas and resulted in some victims and injuries.

Most Permanent Events of the Camp:

On 20 July 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested two Palestinian refugees; Haitham Pilani, 50 years old, and his brother Jamil Pilani, 40 years old at a checkpoint in Hamdaniya area in Aleppo.

- On 25 July 2014, a warplane crashed over Al Nairab after being hit by a missile, which led to its explosion and fall of its wreckage on civilian homes. There were 12 fatalities, a number of casualties and two houses were destroyed as the plane crashed directly into them.
- On 26 July 2014, a shell was dropped on a house in Al Nairab causing the injury of five people, in addition to material damages.
- On 27 July 2014, a number of missiles and shelling targeted the area behind the railway and agricultural lands behind Al-Aqsa Martyrs Mosque, without causing any injuries.
- On 28 July 2014, a mortar shell was dropped on the house of Palestinian, Munif Al Salih, who lived at Saif Al Dawla in Aleppo. No injuries, were caused.
- On 6 August 2014, violent clashes broke out between the Syrian opposition groups and groups of the Syrian army at Sheikh Lutfi area and at Al Nairab crossing.
- On 7 August 2014, violent clashes broke out between the Syrian opposition groups and the Regular Army alongside with Al Quds brigades at Al Sheikh Lutfi area adjacent to Al Nairab camp, as the clashes led to the death of two victims from Al Quds brigades affiliated to the Syrian Army.
- On 24 August 2014, the Syrian security forces and the factions affiliated to it arrested the student Moamen Jouhar, from Al Nairab camp while he was leaving Aleppo University.
- On 1 September 2014, a woman, a refugee in the camp, Ghadeir Kayed Qudseia, returned back to her family after her death had been announced one year before. She was wounded after the shelling of Aleppo University and was found in a hospital at Homs city.
- On 3 September 2014, Em Amer Mghames, 45 years old, was shot in her house during

the unknown random fire shooting and was transferred to Aleppo city for treatment.

- On 7 September 2014, the Syrian security members arrested the representative of Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, Zahir Hawwash, in Aleppo on charges of carrying out the ceremony, Al Binian Al Marsous. This ceremony is held at the camp to support the people of Gaza. He was arrested for several hours then released, while news reported that the ceremony was cancelled after his arrest.
- On 8 September 2014, a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition arrested a number of Palestinian refugees at Izaz area while trying to reach Turkey: Bilal Abu Omar, Mohammed Anwar Abu Hashim, Ahmed Ayoub, Mohammed Yousef Qasim, and Husam Ferran. It was not the first time that the Syrian opposition factions targeted the Palestinian refugees, as some of them were arrested and others were arrested for investigations on charges of cooperating and joining the fights with the Syrian Army.
- On 9 September 2014, each of Bilal Abu Omar, Mohammed Anwar Abu Hashim, Ahmed Ayoub, Mohammed Yousif Qasim, and Husam Ferran were released.
- On 21 September 2014, two shells were dropped at Al Nairab camp, one of them targeted the main entrance of the camp and the other one targeted the house of Abu Merwan Al Naji and led to the injury of each of Ahmed Ali Al Khateib and Alaa Al Shiekh Houd.
- On 21 September 2014, an unknown armed group kidnapped the head of a new UN-RWA at Swidaa governorate, Mr. Mohammed Ghasoub Najeib, while leaving the area towards the camp to visit his relatives.
- On 1 October 2014, two rockets were dropped at the camp, one of them landed on agricultural land and the other targeted an empty house and resulted in only material damages.
- On 4 October 2014, Syrian opposition groups arrested the young man Basil Hourani while he was heading to Turkey.
- On 19 October 2014, violent clashes broke out at Al Ameria front between the Regular army and the Syrian opposition, which led to the closure of the road that links the camp with Aleppo due to sniper activity on this road.
- On 20 October 2014, Daash members arrested Waleid Shreith and his son Mohammed while they were heading to Turkey without disclosing reasons. Daash members asked the buses' passengers to leave the bus and they then detained them.
- On 24 October 2014, Ahmed Walid Abdul Haq was released after a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition arrested him, because of his relationship with the Regular army. News reported that he was released after he relinquished his relationship with Al Quds

brigades affiliated to the Regular army.

- On 27 October 2014, the girl Jana Imad Farouk Musa, seven-years-old, from Al Nairab camp, died after she fled with her family to Hamdaniya area, due to the shells that were dropped at Hamdania while she was in school.
- On 1 November 2014, the Syrian security forces released brothers Safwan, Mahmoud, and Osama Abdel-Hamid, residents of Al Nairab, after they were arrested for nearly four months.
- On 3 November 2014, the Syrian security forces also released a young man, Mazen Al-Assaad from Al Nairab camp in Aleppo after he was arrested for circa five months.
- On 6 November 2014, Syrian security forces released the young man, Ibrahim Hanino, after being arrested for nearly a year.
- On 9 November 2014, an armed opposition group arrested the young man, Mahmoud Al Naji, at Binch area while he was on his way to Turkey.
- On 11 November 2014, an armed opposition group released Mahmoud Al Naji after he was arrested for two days at Binch area while he was on his way to Turkey.
- On 15 November 2014, Syrian security forces released two Palestinian refugees from Al Aedein camp in Homs; one of them was an officer in the Palestinian Authority, Nazar Muhammad Salim Omar, who was arrested by the security detachment responsible for Al Aedein refugee camp in Homs after he was arrested on 26/10 /2014, after raiding his home.
- On 5 December 2014, Daash released the refugee, Haitham Basil Hourani, after he was kidnapped three months prior. Hourani was kidnapped while trying to reach Turkey via northern Syria.

Civil Work Committees:

SRCS, PRCS, and UNICEF distributed food aid to the residents of Al Nairab Palestinian refugee camp in Aleppo.

On 28 July 2014, UNRWA distributed the 9,000 Syrian Palestinian with financial aid, equivalent to \$45 per capita from Nairab and Handarat camps in Aleppo northern Syria, through the Al Haram Company.

Solidarity Sit-ins:

On 14 July 2014, under the slogan 'Cry of Anger for Gaza', hundreds of Al Nairab residents carried out a solidarity march with the people of the Gaza Strip, condemning the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, which killed hundreds of innocent civilians.

Living Situation:

The suffering of Al Nairab residents continued in the second half of 2014 due to the stifling economic and living crises caused by the continuous conflict in Syria. Furthermore, the lack of water, and the continuation of drinking water cuts all over the camp that had been ongoing for a year and a half, exacerbated their suffering. After they lost hope that water would return, they resorted to digging wells and extending the network of water hoses to the narrow lanes, as a 1,000 liters water tank was sold at a price of 200 Syrian pounds/\$ 1.5.

However, power did return to all homes and lanes after a cut nearing two years long, forcing the residents to share private generators.

During the second half of 2014, a large number of families and youth left the camp for Turkey and from there to Europe, due to the deteriorated security situation in the surrounding areas, which have adversely affected them. This was particularly the case after the plane crash on 25 July 2014 onto the homes of the people. The plane crash caused the death of thirteen victims and about forty wounded. Seven families left the camp to go to Hama, Homs, Latakia, and other Palestinian compounds in Damascus; such as Dmr and others, in search of safety and security, while more than ten young men resorted to Turkey in order to emigrate to Europe to search for a decent life.

The people of Al Nairab camp complained that UNRWA did not assume its responsibilities, as they consider the financial and in-kind assistance as unsatisfied amounts to be given to the Palestinian refugees in Syria. Therefore, they launched a distress call to UNRWA to look at their situation and intervene to solve their humanitarian problems. However, the calls were not heard by responsible and concerned parties.

6. Al Aedein Camp, Homs

The phenomenon of young people leaving the camp and seeking asylum in Turkish territories was increased at Al Aedein camp in Homs. They leave the camp for fear of arrest and raid campaigns by the Syrian security forces between now and then.

In the second half of 2014, a large number of youth were arrested, prompting a number of them to leave the camp and move to other areas, and some of them decided to resort to Turkey.

Most Permanent Events of the camp:

- On 1 July 2014, the Syrian security forces inspected the contents of Hamas office in Al Aedein camp for Palestinian refugees in Homs. This office was closed and sealed with red wax. This coincided with the inspection and inventory of two educational facilities belonging to Hamas, the first is a kindergarten, Yaseen Flowers, and the second is the educational Institution, Al Najah, where they were also closed and sealed with red wax. It is noteworthy that the previous two institutions were providing education services almost free for the residents of the camp.
- On the 4 July 2014, the Syrian security forces launched a raid and search campaign in Al Aedein camp in Homs, where some members stormed the closed shops and inspected them thoroughly. They also searched vehicles and checked passenger IDs, which caused panic among the population.
- On 25 July 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested three refugees. Dr Kamal, a gentleman in his sixties, originally from Acre city in Palestine, was arrested at Tadmur checkpoint while he was returning from work at the Education Directorate; Wael Ahmed Al-Haj Yahia, originally from the city of Safed in Palestine, and Yassin Louay Salaymeh, originally from Al Shajara village in Palestine, both in their thirties were also arrested.
- On 16 August 2014, the Syrian security forces raided Ali Mohamed Ali Hamid's house in the camp, a gentleman in his thirties.
- On 20 August 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested Jawdat Kamal at Tadmor crossing checkpoint, a gentleman in his sixties, originally from the city of Acre in Palestine, while he was returning from work at the Education Directorate.
- On 22 August 2014, each Abdul Karim Deguem and Iyad Moussa Abbas were both arrested but Abbas was released two days later.

- On 25 August 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested Ihab Wajieh Zidane from Nissan Hospital, a gentleman in his forties, originally from the village of Tirat Haifa in Palestine.
- On 25 August 2014, Zakaria Ali Shihabi was also arrested; a gentleman in his fifties, originally from Loube village in Palestine.
- On 27 August 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested the dentist Asim Turkey Shihabi; in his forties, lives at the eastern district of the camp, Akrima neighborhood, originally from Loube village in Palestine.
- On 18 September 2014, the eastern district of Al Aedein camp in Homs, Akrima neighborhood, was bombed and three shells targeting Palestinians lane resulted in limited material damage.
- On 16 September 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested Moaath Omar Subhia, arrested for the second time after a few hours of being released, and Essam al-Khalidi who was also arrested from his place of work in the camp.
- On 17 September 2014, Omar Ghannam, a gentleman in his fifties, was arrested from his place of work, where he works as a salesman for vegetables, by a detachment of the camp after an altercation between him and the patrol, and then was released a few hours after being arrested.
- On 26 September 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested three residents, Ibrahim Abu al-Khair, Amjad Al Qusi, and Mahmoud Jihad. Mahmoud Jihad, a man in his thirties, was arrested just after midnight in front of his home in the centre of Jerusalem Street.
- On 1 October 2014, dozens of civilians including two sisters, Reem and Raghda Bashar Al-Bakr and Lana Elewa were injured, after two car bombs exploded near Akrama Almkhumi Primary School in Akrima neighborhood.
- On 11 November 2014, Mayson Hadeid, an employee in Bisan Hospital was arrested by the Immigration and Passports Department.
- On 16 October 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested Mohammad Musa Shatara from Al Aedein camp in Homs, where he was arrested during a raid of a store by the security forces.
- On 17 October 2014, the Syrian security members raided the house of the refugee Mohamed Isa Shatara, from Al Aedein camp, where they searched his house and took half a million Syrian liras, approximately \$2,600, according to his relative's testimony. The witness said that the raid coincided with Al Jomaa prayers, as the residents gathered near the house. Meanwhile, the military security forces of Dowar Tadmor checkpoint, on the same day, arrested Majdi Al-Asadi, a man in his sixties.

- On 24 October 2014, security forces arrested Sabah Bayyari, a woman in her sixties from Al Aedein camp in Homs, at the Immigration and Passports Department in Homs.
- On 27 October 2014, the security detachment responsible for Al Aedein refugee camp, arrested an officer in the Palestinian Authority, Nazar Muhammad Salim Omar; who is in his fifties, originally from Al Shajara village in Palestine, after they raided his home in the camp.
- On 28 October 2014, the camp security detachment arrested Muhammad Habash, a man in his forties displaced from Khalidiya area in Homs at Al Aedein camp in Homs.
- On 1 November 2014, Raja Hassan Ghannam, a man in his forties originally from the village of Tirat Haifa in Palestine, was arrested from his house at Al Aedein camp.
- On 3 November 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested three residents from Al Aedein camp. Mahmoud Darwish, a man in his thirties, originally from the city of Safed in Palestine; Mohammed Yusuf Alghalawi, a man in his thirties originally from the city Safed in Palestine; and Moataz Khalid Omar, a man in his fifties originally from Al Shajara village in Palestine, were arrested at Al Zbzoub checkpoint behind Bilal mosque in the eastern neighborhood of the camp.
- On 5 November 2015, Gharib Mohamed Gharib, from Al Aedein camp in Homs, was arrested by Al Sreital checkpoint members next to the municipal stadium of the Regular army. It is noteworthy that Gharib is from Ein Al Zaytoun village in Palestine. As the Syrian security released, on the same day, Muhammad Ali Alroba, after being arrested for more than a month, as he is in his twenties, originally from Safad city in Palestine.
- On 6 November 2014, the members of a checkpoint in Homs arrested an elderly man, Farouk Ibrahim Diab, in his seventies, while working as a taxi driver.
- On 12 November 2014, groups of the Popular Committee members who are pro-Syrian Regular Army raided the Pharmacy of Mohammed Zuhair Al-Sibai. Mohammed Zubair was a man in his forties, in Akrima neighborhood, eastern district of the camp. Group member raided the pharmacy in order to kidnap him after he received many phone threats to close his pharmacy. A number of these committee members attacked the pharmacy and hit him causing severe injuries with a number of fractures of the skull and limbs. The same committees raided the University City street to search for Mr. Jamal Al Sayed, where he was arrested later, causing a state of tension among the people of the camp.
- On 25 November 2014, the members of Al Shmas police station arrested Ahmed Ham-moud from Al Aedein camp in Homs. He is a government employee in the Military

Housing Foundation, in his sixties, originally from Tarshieha village in Palestine.

- On 5 December 2014, the Syrian security forces arrested two Palestinian refugees from Al Aedein camp in Homs: Khaldoun Moussa Shatar (in his forties), a displaced refugee from Al Neirab camp in Aleppo, originally from Tarsheiha village in Palestine. Mohammad Awad, in his fifties, was also arrested from his home in the camp, as he is originally from Tirat Haifa village in Palestine. The Syrian security released Mason Hadied, from Al Aedein camp in Homs, on the same day, after being detained for more than two months.
- On 11 November 2014, two young men, Faiz Mohammed Musa, a man in his thirties originally from the city of Safed in Palestine, and Mahmoud Maher Hussein, a man in his thirties, were released two days after being arrested from their place of work.
- On 19 November 2014, the young man Ayman Al Talib, who is in his fifties, was also released after two days of being arrested, as he is originally from the city of Safed in Palestine. The Syrian security forces also released the refugee, Ahmed Hammoud on the same day. He was a man in his fifties, originally from Tarshieha village in Palestine, after being arrested and detained for several months.

Living Conditions

The residents of Al Aedein camp in Homs have complained of the bad economic conditions in which they live, an impact of Syrian conflict. They are suffering from widespread unemployment, including high prices and continued power outages for long periods, in addition to the security restrictions on them. An AGPS researcher reported that Syrian security forces informed the stalls owners that it should be removed from the centre of Al Quds Street in the camp.

In terms of relief, UNRWA distributed food aid on needy and poor people from the residents of the camp, and the camp relief point distributed food parcels to the Syrian and Palestinian displaced families who fled to the camp.

Meanwhile, many residents and shop owners announced their deep anger of increasing periods of electricity cuts for up to 12 hours and repeated cuts more than once per day. This caused heavy financial losses, as well as the need for food and supplies, which rotted, forcing them to throw it in the garbage container. The residents of the camp also complained of the Regular army checkpoints prevention of entry of fuel and cooking gas to the camp.

7. Al Aedein Camp, Hama

The Palestinian refugees at Al Aedein camp are living in a state of relative calm in light of the continuous economic suffering. Unemployment, in addition to the high cost of living and rising rents of houses, is especially prominent after the displacement of many residents from the areas surrounding the camp to escape the shelling and clashes.

A state of calm prevailed in Al Aedein camp in the second half of 2014, except for the incident on 9 September 2014 when an explosive device was found near the main entrance of the camp, where the members of a military engineering unit of the Regular army dismantled and exploded it.

On 12 November 2014, the Syrian security forces released the young man Abdul Rahman Subhia, who was born 1981, from Al Aedein camp in Hama, where he was detained for about a year.

On 15 July 2014, the residents of the camp carried out a solidarity demonstration with their families in the Gaza Strip, raising Palestinian flags and banners condemning the Arab and international silence toward the suffering of their families in Gaza.

8. Khan Dannoun Camp

A state of anticipation and instability prevailed in Khan Dannoun camp for Palestinian refugees south of Damascus, particularly in the second half of 2014, after the pace of hostilities increased in the regions and towns adjacent to it, especially Tiba town. The hostilities were between the Syrian opposition and the Regular army forces and some members of the PFGC and Fatah al-Intifada in fighting alongside the regular army, making the camp vulnerable to bombardment and shells.

Many websites affiliated to the Syrian opposition published a statement that was issued by the so-called 'working factions at Tiba town', where those Palestinian factions loyal to the Syrian regime gave the people of Khan Dannoun camp 72 hours to evacuate the camp, in preparation for the bombing. The statement attributed the reason for this move to the bad practices of the Regular army forces and the PFGC groups towards the right of citizens. Furthermore, the statement stressed that after the deadline, the camp would be targeted with missiles, confirming that they will not take responsibility for any injury to civilians after the deadline had passed.

The tense security situation in the vicinity of Khan Dannoun camp in Damascus suburb forced the residents to refrain from sending their children to school. In particular the on the schools located on the road to Al Tiba village were in most danger as they were prone to clashes and sniper fire. Moreover, the residents faced great difficulties due to the presence of large numbers of displaced people in those schools. Huge fire erupted in Beit Lahiya UNRWA School in Khan Dannoun on 20 August 2014, without knowing the real reason behind the fires, which caused material damage, and led to the burning of most of the tents that were hosting the displaced people living in the school.

On the other hand, due to the geographical location of Khan Dannoun, the Regular army tightened its control on its' entrances and exits placing a checkpoint at the main gate, and making the streets a way for its military machines to the battlefronts with opposition forces in neighboring villages.

Residents of the camp complained of inhumane treatment by Regular Army members. Testimonies declared that members confiscated personal belongings and foodstuffs in addition to performing random arrests, which affected all residents.

Alcohol addiction and drug abuse also spread among the residents of the camp. This has prompted Islamic Scholars to warn of the danger of this phenomenon as it brings disastrous consequences for the camp in particular and society in general.

In terms of relief work, an absence has been felt particularly in light of the difficult economic conditions in which they live. The vacuum exists due to the absence of charities or civil work committees inside the camp, as a result of the security restrictions by the regime and the campaign of arrests that have extended to many relief activists. This has forced these commissions to close their doors in order to preserve the lives of activists. Most residents of the camp are now the poorest among the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, since they rely on the sporadic financial aid provided by UNRWA.

The situation in the camp is severe as a result of severe food shortages, widespread unemployment, poverty, and the continuation of power, water and communication cuts for long periods of time.

9. Jaramana Camp

A state of insecurity and instability prevailed in Jaramana refugee camp in Damascus suburb throughout the second half of 2014 as a result of the deteriorated security situation in the regions and towns surrounding it. Many shells were dropped at Jaramana camp as well as car bombs, which took its toll on the residents of Jaramana camp.

Most Prominent Events of the Camp:

- On 13 July 2014, a number of mortar shells targeted Jaramana camp, which led to injuries, panic and fear among the residents.
- On 3 August 2014, the camp was bombed with a number of mortar shells targeting various places throughout the camp, leading to a number of civilian casualties.
- On 4 August 2014, frequent bombing with five mortar shells targeting different parts of Jaramana camp resulted in only material damages.
- On 7 September 2014, UNRWA issued a decision to stop its operations inside Jaramana camp due to the escalation of events in Jaramana and its surroundings between the Syrian Regular army and the Syrian opposition groups.
- On 6 December 2014, Hamza Toukhi, a resident of Jaramana camp, from Abu Nuri neighborhood, was killed.

Living Situation

Jaramana camp, which is eight kilometers away from the Syrian capital, Damascus, is located on the road to Damascus International Airport. It suffers from a lack of basic services and scarcity of food, medicine and fuel. Most residents have stopped working, in particular, the businessmen have due to the conflict and they make up the largest proportion of residents in the camp.

10. Sbeina Camp

Sbeina camp is located near the city of Sbeina, 14 kilometers south of the city of Damascus. It is on 27,000 square meters in an active industrial zone, and the Palestinian refugee population is made up of 6,431 families, consisting of 26,487 refugees. This camp is characterised by tribalism, despite the significant expansion of urban population.

The camp and the town of Sbeina have formed a safe haven at the beginning of the crisis for the people of the camps and the nearby towns. A lot of people resort to the camp due to the expansion of violence in Damascus suburb and some of them rented houses, whether they are Syrians or Palestinian residents from outside the administrative scope of the camp until almost the end of 2012.

In the beginning of 2013, the camp underwent a suffocating siege that was imposed on them by the southern region of Damascus, forcing many of its residents to flee to neighboring areas, such as Sahnaya and Al Kiswa, as well as the displacement to Khan Al Shieh and Khan Dannon camps. The displacement continued with the intensification of the siege, even the camp almost became empty, especially after it was bombed several times. According to UNRWA's statistics, Sbeina camp held 21.8 per cent of all refugees in Lebanon, the number of which has reached 50,000.

After the Regular army took control of the town and camp on 11 July 2013 and according to those allowed to enter e.g. public sector employees, more than 80 per cent of the camp had been almost completely demolished. In particular, the area that extended from Maaz Bin Jabal considered the western entrance of the camp, till the camp's bakery known as Kurds bakery. The rest of the area until required rehabilitation, but it is now somewhat better. Any houses not damaged, belonging to opposition forces, were burned.

On 11 November 2013, the GC popular Committees were the only party who were allowed to enter the camp - the rest of the town was under the regime's control, and its residents were not allowed to return.

11. Hoseniea Camp

The lands of Hoseneia compound form the southern border to the Ghouta of Damascus; it also forms the boundary between the lands of Housh Sahya area and west Ghouta. This land is an administrative region of Babbila, Darya region. It is 13 km far from the city center. The compound is also not more than 2 km away from Al Sayeda Zainab area, and 2-3 km away from Al Sayeda Zainab camp.

The camp is bordered from the north with Al Theiabeia town, from the east Housh Queil, where the modern South Damascus Cemetery, the camp also bordered from the South with Njha housing, and the West with Sahya Village.

Hussenia compound is considered the second largest Palestinian refugee compound after Yarmouk in terms of the numbers - according to the UNRWA statistics there are 32,533 refugees consisting of 7,687 families. However, the real number is larger since most residents of Jaramana camp went to live in Hussenia after the airport road passed through the camp, as well as refugees from the Yarmouk camp.

The camp witnessed widespread destruction and battles between the Syrian regime forces and armed opposition forces, until the regime, the militias, the GC Committees, Fatah, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, managed to control the camp on 10 November 2013.

At the time of writing, residents who left the camp for neighboring areas were not allowed to return to their homes, despite becoming militant free and returning control to the regime; and despite repeated promises from senior Syrian government officials and the Palestinian embassy that they could do so.

12. Handarat Camp “Ein Al Tal Compound”

Ein Al Tal compound is located 13 km south east of Aleppo city, the camp, which is also known as Handarat, is 16,000 square meters in size. UNRWA does not recognise it as a camp, but considers it as a compound for the refugees, as it organically developed through the building of a number of houses to transfer the residents of Al Nairab to it. Indeed, UNRWA has built 47 buildings and there are 35 new buildings still under construction. The number of refugees is estimated to be 6,385 consisting of approximately 1,480 families.

The Syrian regime targeted the camp with warplanes, rockets, a rocket launcher, and artillery on more than one occasion, as the camp is located in an area under Free army control, and about 1 km away from the Canadian hospital, which is a point of conflict between the two parties. The central prison in Aleppo is three kilometres south of the camp.

Accordingly, since the camp is considered an area of tension, its residents have fled to Al Maskan Al Tasea in the University habitation in Aleppo; some of them have fled to Al Nairab camp, and others to Turkey.

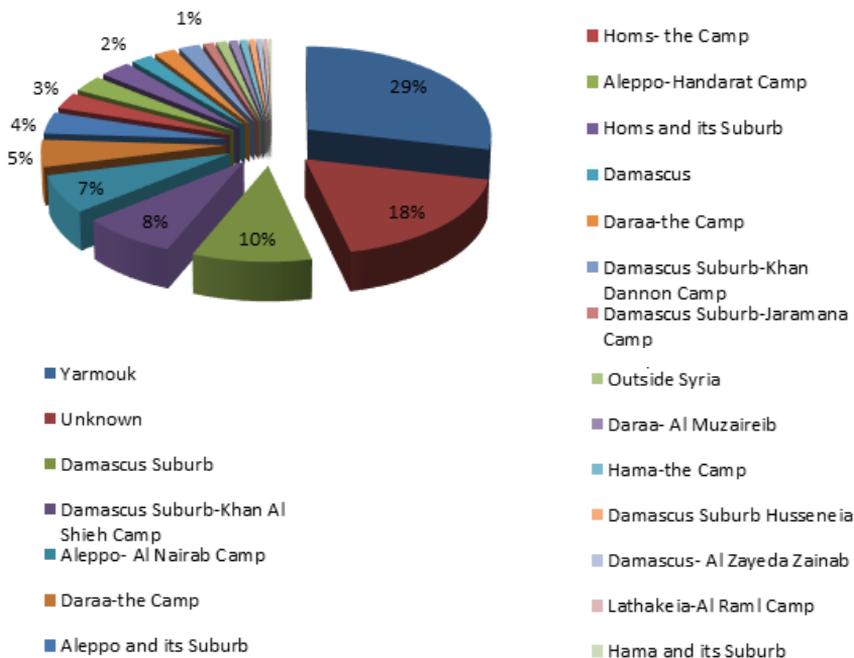
The consequences are that suffering of the residents has been exacerbated after months of displacement. Moreover it affected some of them to prefer returning back to their houses after they were humiliated and starved outside their camp. They stayed for a while in their camps before having to migrate to Turkey through the southern borders of Syria. In March more than 175 Palestinian refugees fled the camp for the border city of Kilis, escaping the frequent bombing of shells and explosive barrels.

The Statistics During the Second Half of 2014

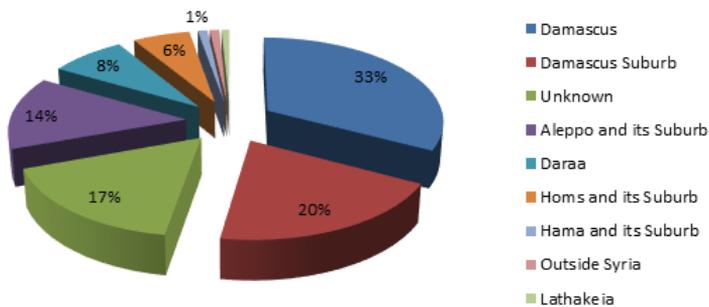
The AGPS documented the death of 262 Palestinian refugee victims in different places of Syria during the second half of 2014, as the figures show the decrease in the number of victims as compared to the first half of 2014, where almost 461 Palestinian refugees died.

From 1 July to 31 December

Place of Death	.No
Yarmouk	75
Daraa- the Camp	13
Damascus Suburb-Husseneia	1
Damascus Suburb-Khan Al Shieh Camp	20
Aleppo- Al Nairab Camp	18
Damascus-Al Sayeda Zainab	1
Homs- the Camp	9
Aleppo-Handarat Camp	9
Damascus Suburb-JAramana Camp	3
Daraa- Al Muzaireib	2
Hama- the Camp	2
Lathakeia- Al Raml Camp	1
Damascus Suburb-Khan Dannon Camp	4
Damascus Suburb	25
Damascus	5
Aleppo and its Suburb	11
Homs and its Suburb	8
Hama and its Suburb	1
Daraa	5
Outside Syria	3
Unknown	46
Total	262



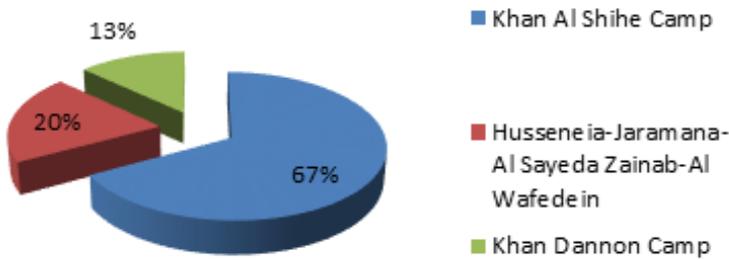
Distribution of Victims by Governorates during the Second Half of 2014



Distribution of Victims in Damascus Suburb Camps during the Second half of 2014

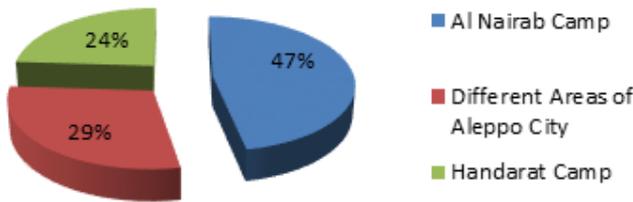
78 victims died at the Yarmouk camp and Al Hajar Al Aswad, 75 victims inside the camp and 43 victims at Al Hajar Al Aswad, while 30 refugees died in Damascus City and its suburb.

Within Damascus Camps, 20 refugees died at Khan Al Shieh Camp, six refugees died at Husseneia, Jaramana, Al Sayeda Zainab, and Al Wafedein Camps, and four refugees died in Khan Dannoun Camp.



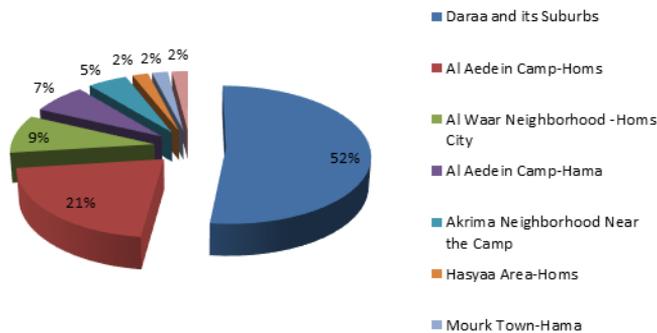
Distribution of Victims in Damascus Suburb Camps during the Second half of 2014 _____

38 refugees died in Aleppo and its camps, 18 victims at Al Nairab, nine victims at Handarat, and the remainder in different areas of Aleppo city.



Distribution of Victims in Aleppo City and its Camps during the Second half of 2014 _____

21 refugees died in central and western Syria, nine refugees died in Al Aedein camp in Homs, four refugees died in Al Waar neighborhood in Homs city, two refugees died in Akrima neighborhood near the camp, one refugee died in Al Hasyaa area, in Hama city, three refugees died in Al Aedein camp-Hama, one refugee died in Mourk town, one refugee died in AL Raml camp-Lathakeia, and 23 victims died in Daraa city and its suburbs.



Distribution of Victims in Central and Western Syria during the Second half of 2014 _____

The number of the victims who died outside Syria while trying to reach Europe reached three in different cities. 49 victims died in different places inside Syria but the documentation and monitoring team could not define exactly where.

Victims of Torture and Enforced Disappearance

The detainees inside the prisons and the detention centers are exposed to severe torture, and humiliation that has resulted in psychological and Physical consequences liable to cause death. The AGPS documented 74 Palestinian refugee victims who were killed inside Syrian regime prisons, between July 2014 and December 2014.

The arrest of victims of torture follows the same procedure as follows:

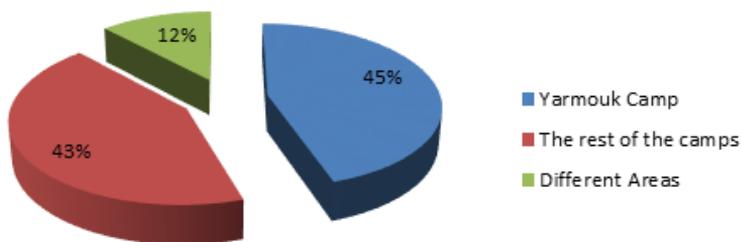
- **Detention at checkpoints or regions under the control of the regime**

The checkpoints that are centered at the entrances of the main camps, compounds and cities are focused on the Syrian street as it is a place that gives hope for those who pass it. The checkpoint members have lists of wanted people who joined in protests, or wanted on charges of performing relief, medical, or humanitarian activities inside besieged areas. Names tended to be written by hand and incomplete, making even more persons vulnerable to detention for having a similar name or for intrigue reports.

Other arrests took place of persons who were in the wrong place at the wrong time — in places under the regime control. For example, Redwan Shehada Jabasieni died from torture in Syrian regime prisons after being detained for more than nine months; he was detained from inside Al Ashmar mosque, which is located at Al Zahira old Area in Damascus. As well as the Information engineer Waseim Abu Zaina who was arrested inside an IT department of a college in Damascus.

- **Detention while leaving besieged areas**

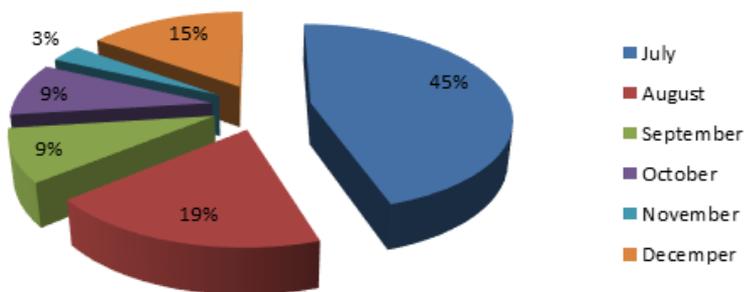
The AGPS documented many victims who were detained while trying to leave the Yarmouk camp, which has been besieged for more than a year, while two brothers, Raafat and Nawras Abdulaal, and two more brothers, Ali and Hasan Abu Al Einein, died inside the prisons after being arrested at Hujaira checkpoint in Damascus suburb while trying to leave the Yarmouk



Distribution of Torture Victims' Distribution by Place during the Second half of 2014

- Chronological distribution of torture victims

The number of victims by the end of June 2014, had reached 211 Palestinian refugee victims in Syria. The largest number of victims of torture was recorded in August 2014 as the families of 31 victims were informed by security forces to receive the personal belongings of their relatives, after they had died in prison. Compared with the same month in 2013, statistics indicate that these figures have increased five-fold. The AGPS documented six Palestinian victims in August 2013, while only one victim died in the same month of 2012.



Chronological Distribution of Torture Victims during the Second half of 2014

Assassination and Kidnap Victims

Assassinations targeted against activists within the Yarmouk camp, increased in the second half of 2014. Baha Saqr, a member of the Yarmouk League, was assassinated after unknown groups shot him on 2 August while in the Yarmouk main street near Al Waseim mosque. He was transferred to a Palestine hospital where he died from his injuries. Ahmed Al-Sahli (Abu Adel) and Abdullah Al-Badr (Abu Uday) were also assassinated after Al Isha prayers in Al Orouba neighborhood, on 19-20 August respectively.

On 29 November the activist, Ali Al Hijja, was assassinated in Al Orouba Street, where he was shot while he was inside a barbershop.

On 20 December 2014, the activist Mohammad Yousuf Arisha (Abu Abed Arisha), the director of the relief office in the camp, was assassinated by a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition. He was shot in the middle of Loube Street enroute to his office.

Three days after the assassination of Arisha, on 23 December 2014, Mohammed Tirawih, the representative of the Fatah movement in the Yarmouk refugee camp, was assassinated in the same manner by unknown groups - near his home at Al Thalathein Street inside the camp.

The AGPS documented that two refugees were kidnapped and then killed; they are Rami Miari, 30 years old from Al Neirab camp in Aleppo, and Wael Abu Zahra, from Khan Al Shieh camp, after a group affiliated to the Syrian opposition kidnapped him.

A group affiliated to Al Nusra front executed two men from the Yarmouk refugee camp, Shadi Abu Siam and Zakareia Al Marei,, on charges of cursing the name of God on 11 December 2014.

Siege Victims

The siege imposed on the Yarmouk camp has impacted on residents in the worst way. A lack of basic necessities of life has caused deaths as ill-health has not been treated for scarcity of medicine and medical care. The AGPS documented seven new victims during the second half of 2014.

The siege imposed for the previous 544 days had led to the death of 157 people from the Yarmouk camp, since it was imposed by the Syrian Regular army and Palestinian factions loyal to it (PFLP-GC, Fatah al-Intifada, and the Palestinian struggle front).

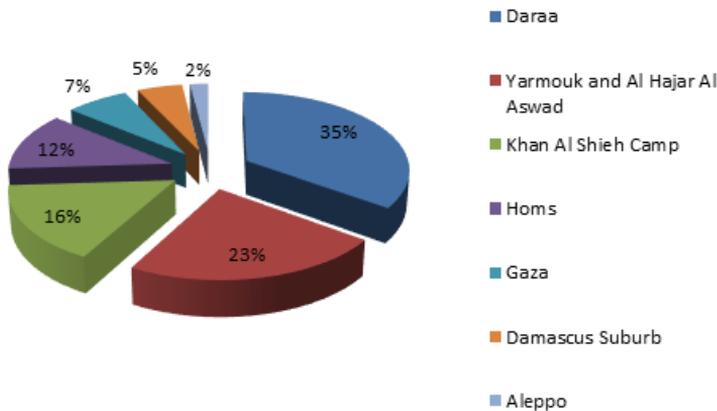
Shelling Victims

The AGPS documented 44 victims who died from bombs targeted at Palestinian camps and compounds, which led to the death of Palestinian refugees who were displaced from their areas to relatively safer areas.

Shelling took place in Dar’aa city and its towns, taking the lives of 15 victims, 10 of which died from explosive barrels. 10 victims were also found from the Yarmouk refugee camp and Al Hajar Al Aswad, seven victims from Khan Al Shieh camp and two victims from Damascus Suburb (Douma and Al Wafedien Camps).

In Aleppo, Samir Nazim Najib, from Handarat camp, died while he was in Al Sarayan neighborhood on 19 July 2014, after being injured by shrapnel from a mortar shell that targeted the neighborhood. As well as five victims that had died in the city of Homs, four of them in Al Waar neighborhood and the fifth in Al Hasyaa area.

Three victims from the Palestinian camps in Syria were also found to have died through the Israeli aggression on the Gaza strip in the summer of 2014. they are: Khalid Bedwan and Yousif Khalid Bidwan from the Yarmouk camp and Abdullah Hammad Abu Al Shabab from Dar’aa camp.



Distribution of Shelling Victims in the Camps and Towns in Syria during the Second half of 2014

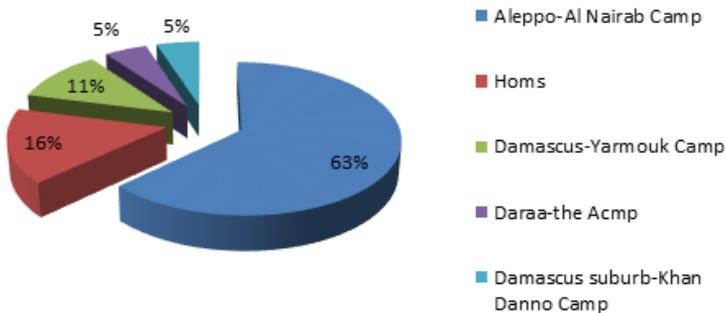
Explosion Victims

During the second half of 2014, 20 Palestinian refugees died from explosions, which targeted the Palestinian camps and compounds. 12 refugees died in Aleppo on 25 July 2014, most of them children and elderly people, as a result of the explosion of a military helicopter as it fell over the camp on the civilians inside the camp.

Meanwhile, three children from Akrima neighborhood near Al Aedein camp in the city of Homs, Reem Bakr, Raghad Bakr and Lana Elewa, were killed as a result of two car bombs in Akrima neighborhood in Homs near Akrima Almkzumi elementary school, on 1 October 2014.

In the Yarmouk refugee camp, Tala Alian, a year and a half year old baby girl, died as a result of a mysterious bomb attack that happened in a lane of the camp, while Nidal Dawwa, a PFGC member, died due to a planted explosive device near the entrance of the Yarmouk refugee camp. According to the AGPS correspondent, Al Dawwa tried to plant an explosive device in the conflict area between the regular army, the General Command, and the armed groups, but the device exploded and killed him.

Imad Diab, 27 years of age, from Dar'aa camp, died while trying to remove the remains of a bomb that targeted Al Sad neighborhood in the city of Dar'aa, where the bomb exploded, which injured him seriously and led to his death, and Bilal Yasin Halawa, from Khan Dannon camp, a PLA officer, in Adra area died by the explosion of a landmine.



Distribution of Explosion Victims' during the Second half of 2014

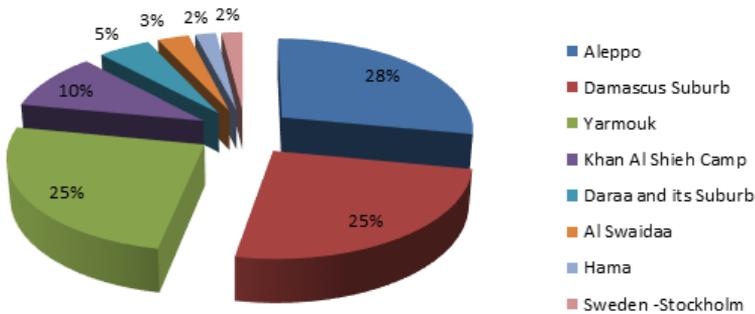
Clashes and Sniping Victims

The number of victims that have died due to gunshot wounds caused by direct clashes in different parts of Syria, has reached nearly 72 Palestinian refugees, while the total number of sniping victims has reached 10 refugees.

In Aleppo, 19 Palestinian refugees died, including 17 of them from the pro-Syrian regime, Al-Quds Brigade, in clash locations on more than one front in the city of Aleppo. 17 Palestinian refugees died in different parts of Damascus, 11 of them from the Palestinian Liberation Army loyal to the regime, 17 refugees died from the Yarmouk refugee camp, circa 10 of who are members of the GC and Fatah Al-Intifada .

In Khan Al Shieh camp, seven refugees died, three of them by the Syrian opposition groups. The free army groups also shot Mohammed Hassan Methqal Al Qadeya, Mohammed Saleh Saleh, and Mohammed Saleh Jerwan during separate incidents in the camp. In the city of Dar'aa and its suburb, three Palestinians died as a result of the ongoing clashes there, as well as two officers of the PLA, Mohamed Mahmoud Ahmed in Al Swaidaa city, and Bilal Abed Rabbo, in the city of Hama - Mourk area.

The AGPS documented the death of Mohamed Mounir Amira, 26 years of age, who died in Stockholm, Sweden on 5 October 2014 due to a shot that he attained in the Swedish city of Stockholm, it is mentioned that he was displaced from the Yarmouk refugee camp.

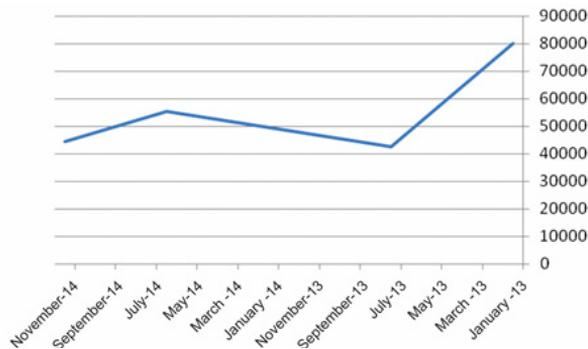


Clash and Sniping Victims during the Second Half of 2014

The Displaced People Outside Syria

- Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Lebanon

The strict procedures taken by the Lebanese General Security at the Lebanese-Syrian border are still preventing the entry of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon, after the approval of the border closure in the face of the Palestinians by the Lebanese government. The number of refugees decreased from nearly 80,000 at the beginning of 2013, to approximately 42,444 refugees in July of the same year. At the beginning of June 2014 the numbers increased to 55,409. In November 2014, UNRWA reported that the statistics indicate a decrease in refugees to 44,431 refugees.



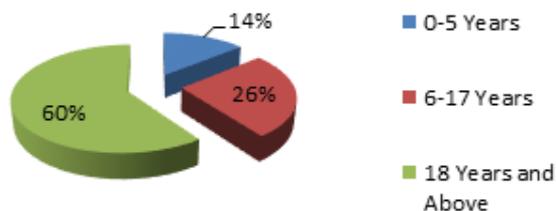
Regarding reasons that led to the sharp decline in numbers, the observer finds that the actions taken by the Lebanese government on the one hand, and the tightening that occurred to the Palestinian refugee from Syria to Lebanon, have the greatest impact on it. Some refugees were compelled to voluntarily return to Syria for paperwork or other needs, but found they could not then re-enter. Some Palestinian families therefore became dispersed between Syria and Lebanon. Others migrated through airports to Arab countries, as a first step to get to Europe.

❖ Distribution of Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Lebanon

Refugees Distribution in the Lebanese Regions	Statistics	
	Families	Individuals
Beirut	2411	7518
Beqaa	2060	7420
Sidon	4078	14301
Tripoli	1975	7068
Sour	2019	8124
Total	12543	44431

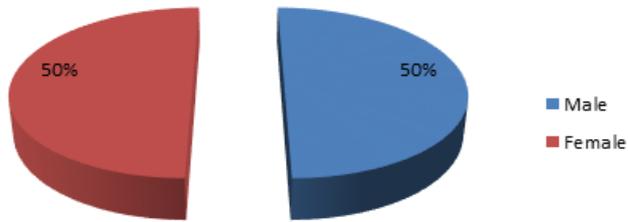
❖ Age Map for Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Lebanon

Children and young people form the largest percentage among Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon, exceeding 39.73 per cent, as the (0-5 years) category formed 13.88 per cent, while the 6-17 year category formed 25.88 per cent, and the 18 year and above category has reached 60.23 per cent.

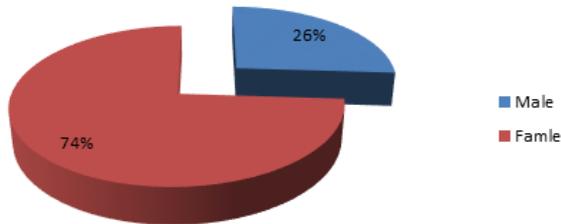


Age Map

The percentage of females among refugees has formed 50.25 per cent, while the males form 49.48 per cent. Families provided by a female has formed 26.40 per cent, and those provided for by a man have formed 73.6 per cent.



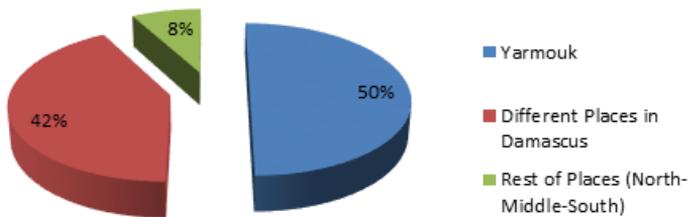
The Refugees in Lebanon by Gender



The Palestinian Families by Family Provider

Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon are distributed to five areas in Lebanese camps, compounds and cities, where families are distributed in 49.83 per cent in the camps, and 50.17 per cent outside the camps.

Palestinian Syrian refugees came from multiple areas in Syria, where the city of Damascus formed the largest source of refugee arrivals, including 91.49 per cent of the total families, 11,628 families, (5795) family from the Yarmouk refugee camp, an increase of 49.84 per cent, while the percentage of refugee families from other areas (north, south and center) formed 8.51 per cent.



Palestinian Syrians in Lebanon by Source Areas

❖ The Legal Situation of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Lebanon

There was no change in the legal status of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon in the second half of 2014,, except for a decision by the Lebanese General Security Directorate on 25 September 2014, which authorised Palestinian refugees ability to renew their residencies for free, and violators to settle their conditions also for free and within a specified beginning, but not specific end¹.

Many violations against Palestinian refugees were monitored, the most pertinent was the Lebanese General Security prevention of the entry of Abu Ali Ramadan's family to take his body and bury it, where it was impounded for 11 days inside a refrigerator at the governmental Baabda hospital, because there was no one to receive it. After the intervention of the Office of Palestinian Refugees Affairs of the Hamas movement in Lebanon to the public security to mediate entry of his son to take over the body of his father and to bury him, as they accept the request under a humanitarian pretext.

There are also some municipalities that identified certain times for Syrian refugee intake, and issued instructions and conditions on people wanting to rent their homes to Palestinian and Syrian refugees. Families wanting to do shouldn't exceed five family members and the prevention of renting more than one family in a house¹.

1-Regularisation of all Palestinian refugees from Syria, who violate the residency system, and who entered legally or illegally to Lebanon, **with the regional public security centers and granted residency as follows:**

First, entering legally and Violators of residency system (Violators before 08.21.2014).

To be regularized and granted a temporary residency for three months and only once without any fees after the annexation of the required documents and in accordance with the official mechanism for the residency renewal of the Palestinian refugees of Syria for free.

Free regularisation does not applied on the Palestinian refugees in Syria who hold permanent annual residency cards, courtesy or who have been granted a deadline to get a work permit.

Second, entering illegally and violators of residency system.

Regularise their situation by giving them a temporary residence for three months, but only once and without any fees, after the annexation of the required documents (passport, or Syrian identity, or Individual status record).

See the Lebanese General Security site: http://www.general-security.gov.lb/news_det.aspx?d=175

❖ Humanitarian and Living Reality of the Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Lebanon:

In light of the decline in general relief work, UNRWA has taken arbitrary action towards the right of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon, which has exacerbated the suffering of hundreds of Palestinian refugee families there. On 15 September 2014, UNRWA informed circa 1,100 Palestinian Syrian families that their monthly financial assistance would be suspended from October as no longer met the conditions for obtaining this according to the social survey results



A Photo for a House of some Refugee Families from Syria to Lebanon

conducted in July. This decision led to much disenfranchisement and hopelessness amongst the refugees as even UNRWA were determining the deserved and non-deserved.

The Palestinian community in Lebanon - its factions, civil and human rights organisation- and its popular committees united to condemn this decision as groundless and considered it an unjust and prejudicial act towards the Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon. They also considered such steps as an attempt by UNRWA to avoid its responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees.

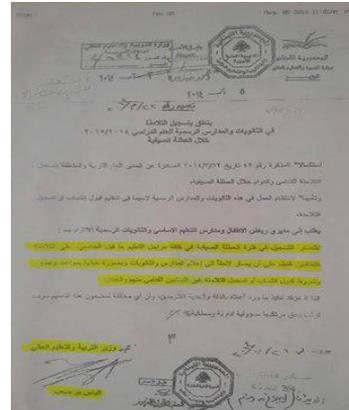
Lebanon is an incubator for Palestinian refugees from Syria, and is not a typical representation of security, legal, social and economic stability they should be experiencing. It is still forbidden for Syrian-Palestinians to enter Lebanon, and they cannot obtain a residence permit to allow them to work or to move freely within Lebanon or between cities and Palestinian camps. Whole families end up suffering from living divided between inside and outside Syria. There are also serious implications at psychological, social, and economic levels. Within Syria Palestinian refugees from Syria suffer from both the violence as a result of the crisis in the country since March 2011, as well as its impact on Palestinian refugees, as part of the Syrian social structure.

The Palestinian Refugees' Health Reality from Syria to Lebanon

UNRWA continued to provide health services for Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon. Health services were primarily limited to primary care and referrals to hospitals were made through contract in order to perform some surgeries and child births.

However, there are differences not recognised by UNRWA, since the second asylum, accompanied by changes in the new refugee community, such as unemployment, poverty, the difficulty of providing housing, the high cost of living and many observations confirmed by several previous reports, however, UNRWA did not deal with or work to resolve them; such as:

- UNRWA does not provide medical expenses resulting from emergency incidents as car accidents, while it is partially covering some surgical operations such as open heart, the costs of which the refugee finds himself unable to cover most cases.
- Refugees may get a low price or free treatment, but buying medicine is an obstacle in light of the high cost of drugs in Lebanon, the lack of affordability, and lack of availability to UNRWA. When available it is in quantities not sufficient to cover the patient's monthly needs (such as the nebulizer for asthma or chronic diseases).
- There are no fixed medical points in the shelters, which provide for dozens of families, and no periodic medical checks amongst refugees in such centers to reduce the aggravation of some chronic diseases and the spread of some infectious diseases that may be transmitted quickly in places of mass gatherings and housing.
- There are some treatments and procedures necessary for the refugees that are not provided by UNRWA clinics (such as the tooth nerve and the fragmentation of urinary stones from outside the body).



The Ministry of Education in Lebanon Decision about the Syrians Enrollment in the Lebanese Schools

Educational Reality

UNRWA schools in Lebanon inside and outside Palestinian refugee camps contain most of the Palestinian refugee students from Syria, but students can still be prevented from joining the schools for example, because of their deteriorated economic situation.

In addition to the different curriculum that is still considered the biggest obstacle faced by students, some schools follow the Syrian curriculum and others follow the Lebanese curriculum.

The Lebanese Ministry of Education made the counter-productive decision, at the beginning of the current academic year (2014-2015), to ban non-Lebanese student enrollment in Lebanese craft schools, which raised the fear of thousands of Palestinian Syrian and Syrian refugee families about the future of their children.

For its part, UNRWA followed, until the end of the last academic year (2013-2014), the policy of afternoon study time for Syrian students. UNRWA contracted teachers and day laborers to open special centers within the schools. At the beginning of the year, UNRWA decided to cancel the education program, which was dedicated to Palestinian Syrians and convert it to an integrated program with Lebanese students.

This initiative is detrimental as it does not take into account the difference in curriculum and current level of attainment for the two students. In addition, it causes further overcrowding in classes, which already exists with many Palestinians in Lebano. A further 7,500 Palestinian students from Syria were also integrated. A merge of this type will result in contract termination of dozens of teachers who were assigned to teach them.



The Yarmouk Ambulatory Clinic at Al Kifah Shelter Center at Ein Al Hilweh Camp

Educational problems were not limited to primary, middle or high school students, but also included the university students who were unable to complete their studies because of the high cost of private universities and the impossibility of joining official Lebanese Universities.

❖ The Palestinian Syrian Civil Work

There are various Syrian-Palestinian civil society bodies active in Lebanon such as Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon, the Displaced Follow-up Committee, and the Palestinians of Syria Committee for demanding immigration as well as others.

These committees had a remarkable presence in several places, and formed a popular mobility against the actions taken by UNRWA towards refugees. This included sit-ins in front of UNRWA offices in the camps and major areas in Lebanon.

The Committees have a prominent role in influencing the Lebanese government on their border policy towards Palestinian refugees fleeing from the war in Syria, and treats them similarly to Syrian refugees. These committees also carried out several sit-ins in solidarity with Gazans against Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2014.

On a social level, the Palestinians of Syria committee in Lebanon, in cooperation with the Palestinian civil institutions played an important role in alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian refugees, through the restoration of several shelters in Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon, and some centers and homes in the city of Tyre camps, in collaboration with Palestinians of Syria workers league.

The Committee also, in collaboration with Palestinians of Syria doctors league, implemented several medical days in the camps, where it provided medical consultation for hundreds of refugees, and opened an ambulatory clinic in the shelter of Al Kifah School at Ein el-Hilweh camp to provide medicine and treatment for all refugees without exception with very low cost.

At the beginning of the academic year of 2014-2015, the Committee, in cooperation with the Islamic Bond of the Palestine Students, distributed stationery and bags to about 1,500 students from all academic levels in various regions of Lebanon.

It was clear that dealing with the Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon was quite different than dealing with Syrian refugees, despite the fact that the same circumstances led them to seek asylum. Moreover, the “enforced return” to Syria which was practiced

on Palestinians after they had waited for days or long hours, was in clear violation of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, the 1967 Protocol, and Article 3 of the Convention against Torture of 1984.

The Palestinian Syrian presence that is not a result of 'enforced circumstances' also requires special and impossible conditions, which has led to further protests.



- Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Egypt

At the beginning of the Syrian Crisis, Egypt became a temporary place for some Palestinian families from Syria. Egypt has also been seen as a gateway to Europe via the 'death boat' phenomena, while for others it was a primary step towards Libya.

During Mohamed Morsi's Presidency, Palestinians from Syria were facilitated to the Arab Republic of Egypt to escape the conflict, which was the arrival of hundreds of families at that time.

Since Mohamed Morsi's rule was dismantled, this policy has changed and dozens of refugees have been beaten, arrested, and killed (for example what happened in the middle of the sea). Refugees' shops have been vandalised; businessmen were not allowed to work; and hundreds were detained under coercive conditions; dozens were arbitrarily deported and handed over to the Syrian Authorities, while others were deported to Lebanon. All bureaucratic procedures granted to these refugees were halted such as residency permit renewals and identification card ratification. School students also faced harassment.²

Therefore, Palestinian refugees of Syria are no longer allowed to enter Egypt legally and consequentially become victims of scams and blackmail. For example, some refugees approached brokers and attained visas for fees ranging between US\$2,500 and US\$3,000, which was paid to brokers, whereas, the visa application process should not require the payment of fees.

❖ Detainment in Egyptian Prisons – A Continuous Tragedy

On Saturday 25 October 2014, a boat carrying illegal immigrants headed out from Mersin coastal city, Turkey towards Italy's coastline, which is considered one of the gates used by immigrants to countries of the European Union.

2-See the Status Report about Palestinians of Syria Conditions-the AGPS, Return Palestinian Center-London, and Vidar Association. <http://www.actionpal.org/index.php>

The passengers were carried to the boat by fishing bulldozers until 104 Palestinian and Syrian refugees were on board. The boat that left the Turkish territorial water sailed continuously for a week. Then, the passengers found themselves at an island where they were terrorised and forced to get off the boat by guns. Later, they realised they were on the Egyptian territorial waters right in front of Alexandria city.

The passengers had no choice but to cry out for the Egyptian coast guards to help them. They in turn, arrested detaining them at Karmouz police station on the charge of illegal entry to the country. They were arrested in unhealthy condition, though treated well as explained to an AGPS researcher.

The AGPS contacted the passengers in order to shed light on their case and the conditions that led them to this fate. M.M, a Palestinian refugee arrested at Karmouz police station said,

“We left Syria after a long troublesome journey, through which we had to cross dozens of checkpoints for both parties of the dispute in Syria, until we arrived at Turkey. We were heading to Europe seeking the good life and stability we had not felt for nearly the four years of the ongoing conflict.

We were displaced of our house in Yarmouk camp, and went to Qudessah in Damascus suburb where we were besieged more than once. Therefore, we had to take refuge at areas we thought would be safer, but to no avail. Thus, my father decided to leave Syria by any means possible, especially after we stopped receiving news about my detained brother for nearly two years.”

He resumed, “I left Mersin accompanied by one of the smugglers to an unknown location; a place smugglers used as a point to gather the immigrants. From there we headed out into the sea on a fishing boat. We stayed in the sea for four days waiting for the numbers of immigrants to arrive.

In the morning of the fifth day, another boat arrived, so we were asked to board it so as to resume sailing in the sea to bring the women, and then head towards Italy. Indeed, women were brought; however, the boat did not leave the Egyptian territorial waters with



the pretext of a malfunction in the boat preventing it from resuming sailing towards Italy. Therefore, we had to move again to another boat. After the rude attitude they showed us, we realised later that it was their plan to drop us off at that place.”³

❖ Children Detainees in Egyptian Detention Centers

On 8 November 2014 Palestinians of Syria, detained in Egypt sent a voice message from inside the Egyptian prisons calling international organisations to intervene for their release. On the recording, the voice of 14 year old, Omar Shehaby, a Palestinian of Syria, born in the Yarmouk camp, Damascus, is heard. Omar and his family had escaped the vicious war in Syria, and went to Lebanon. After life in Lebanon had become unbearable, his family decided to send him with his 21 year old brother, Abdullah, to sail on the death boats, and travel to Europe seeking safe shelter and an honorable life.

The child added, “We entered the Egyptian soil through the airport in the middle of September. Then we headed to Alexandria. After a week, we sailed from the city’s shores on a small boat accompanied by a number of the Palestinian and Syrian families. However, that boat broke down 10 hours later.” The child continued, “After six days on the boat that was carrying 130 refugees from women, children, and elders, an Egyptian battleship rescued us, and delivered us to the Egyptian authorities.

We were detained at Al Anfoshy Sports Center in Alexandria. Then we were transferred to the Customs Police Station also in Alexandria. Later, we were taken to court which decided to deport us to Syria despite of our appeals for mercy.” Accordingly, the Palestinian refugees detained in the Egyptian prisons launched a distress appeal, calling human rights organizations and institutions, the United Nations, the PLO, the Palestinian factions, as well as all other concerned parties to intervene at the Egyptian authorities so as not to be deported to Syria, and to be released.⁴

3- Names were not mentioned but the first letters, according to the witnesses demand for private reasons.

4- The Palestinian detainees are still detained by the Egyptian authorities till the moment of preparing the report on December 2014.

❖ Useless Positions and Reactions

In an attempt to monitor the official as well as civil interaction with the detainees, the Palestinian Embassy in Egypt sent Yasser Suliman who introduced himself as a representative of the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo. He told the detainees that they had no choice, for they would remain in prison until they accept to be deported to Syria.

He added, “The embassy will do its utmost; however, the chance of finding a solution other than imprisonment until deportation does not exceed 5 per cent. Besides, you should be grateful that you are staying here, for this was the best location. There is nothing we can do more.” These were his words.

On their part, the families of the detainees expressed their concerns, and asked the embassy to bear their responsibility towards their relatives. M.K., father of one of the detainees, stressed the need to prevent the deportation of the refugees to Syria due to the risk on their lives. He also demanded that solution be found in order to transport them to Turkey or any other European country that would accept them.

Furthermore, the Palestinian House in Holland released a press statement on 5 November to call upon Egyptian authorities to immediately release all detainees, and to warn against delivering them to the Syrian authorities in light of the continuation of the ongoing war. It also urged the humanitarian and human rights organisations take responsibility, and directly contact those who were affected to follow with their situation and meet their needs. The House referred to the detainees as scam victims of human traffickers.

In addition, on 7 November 2014, a score of activists launched a campaign entitled ‘Egyptian Authorities: Good Treatment for the Palestinian and Syrian Refugees’ via the Avaaz organization website. They pleaded with the Egyptian government so as not to deport the detained Palestinian and Syrian refugees to Syria, for it would be dangerous on their lives.

On 13 November 2014, Amnesty International also pleaded with the Egyptian authorities to immediately release the detainees and not to deport them to Syria for it would endanger their lives

In the follow-up to these detainees' fate, the Egyptian authorities regarded them as war refugees, so the Syrians were released and returned to Turkey. The Palestinian refugees, however, are still detained at Karmouz police station after the Turkish government refused to receive them pending any country to agree to receive them or choosing returning to Syria; a choice that is refused by all detainees.

- Palestinian Refugees of Syria in Libya

The insecurity present in major Libyan cities are overshadowing the conditions of Palestinians of Syria living there, forcing them to risk their lives and the lives of their families and fleeing to Europe via the death boats.

Through their trip to Europe via Libya, the Palestinians of Syria were exposed to various incidents from being kidnapped by bandits in the Libyan Desert or being detained by the Libyan authority.

On 15 August 2014, the Anti-Crime Department in Zuwara City in Libya arrested around 200 illegal immigrants including a number of Palestinians of Syria during their attempt to reach Europe through the Libyan shores.

On 17 August the Council of Elders and Shura of the Local Council of Zuwara City released a statement of which the AGPS received a copy. In the statement, they called for fighting the illegal immigration that head off from the city's shores.

The statement urges the citizens who are duped by money to stop these actions immediately. In addition, it called upon the parents of these smugglers to renounce their sons' actions. It also stressed on the need for the concerned security entities to take action in order to fight such crimes.

On 16 September, the Libyan Navy stated, "A boat carrying nearly 250 refugees drowned off the Libyan coast and near Tajouraa, east of the Libyan Capital during its attempt to reach the European shores. This resulted in the death of most of the boat's passengers; rescue teams were only able to save a few while the corpses of the others floated on the surface."

On 4 November 2014, 17 Palestinians of Syria were released; they were previously kidnapped by an unidentified party in Tripoli, Libya during their attempt to emigrate to Europe seeking security and safety. One of the abductees said, "The kidnappers demanded a ransom in order to release them. However, the families of the abductees restored to one of the well-known people of the area, which led to their release without any conditions." On 20 November 2014, the Libyan authorities arrested 53 people of different nationalities, including 47 Palestinians from Syria during their journey to Europe, which started from Sudan towards Libya, and was destined to end in Italy.

According to a statement given by an official source in the Libyan police, the refugees were detained in Ajdabiya City Police Department on the charge of illegal immigration pending legal action. The previous examples were only the tip of the iceberg of what the Palestinians from Syria suffered and are still suffering from upon arriving in Libya or on their journey there during their quest to immigrate to Europe.



- Palestinians of Syria in Jordan

According to UNRWA statistics, the number of Palestinian refugees of Syria in Jordan is estimated at 14,348 distributed in the cities of Irbid, Zarqa, Amman, Mafraq, Zaatari camp and Cyber City. The average family size is 4.1, 196 of whom are in Cyber City compound. Data shows that 56 per cent of the Palestinian refugees of Syria to Jordan hold Jordanian passports, 22 per cent hold Palestinian passports, while 21 per cent hold Syrian passports. ,

AGPS documented numerous violations against the rights of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan:

- On 6 July 2014, the Jordanian security forces prevented Tieba Association for Charity from distributing food aid for the Palestinians of Syria with the pretext of not acquiring prior authorisation from Jordanian security.
- In addition, on 26 August the Jordanian authorities prevented UNRWA delegates from entering Cyber City compound and communicating with the Palestinian refugees to check on their status and humanitarian conditions.

❖ Human Rights Watch “ The Escaped Palestinians from Syria to Jordan are Unwelcome”

On 7 August 2014, Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report stating that Jordan rejects the entry of escaped Palestinian refugees from Syria and forcibly returns them back, in a clear violation of its international commitments. Since January 2013, Jordan officially prohibited the entry of the Palestinians of Syria, as well as forcibly returning more than 100 refugees who managed to enter its territories since the middle of 2012, including women and children.

Moreover, according a report entitled “The Palestinians of Syria are Unwelcome in Jordan”, the HRW documented some incidents of Jordan in which it denationalised Palestinians that stayed in Syria for several years and were of Jordanian nationality. As well as detaining or deporting them back to Syria, without their IDs. In addition, Jordan treats the

Palestinians of Syria contrary to the Syrian citizens, since it allowed the entry of at least 607.000 Syrian citizens since the beginning of the Syrian conflict.

Mr. Nadeim Hourri, the Executive Manager Deputy of the Middle East and North Africa, considered that the plight of the Palestinians is the truth that everyone turns a blind eye, since they are already burdened with meeting the needs of Syrian refugees.

However, any refugee who escapes of violence in Syria, either Palestinians or Syrians, should not be deprived of entering or be forcibly deported.

HRW said that the Jordanian Government must immediately cancel the prevention of the Palestinian refugees' entry to its territories, and to put a limitation on deporting them.

Since the middle of 2012, the Jordanian Security Forces at the borders prevented the entry of some Palestinians coming from Syria, who were trying to enter Jordan. In January 2013, the Jordanian Government announced its official policy of denying entry, as well as the security forces detain and deport Palestinians who enter the unofficial border crossings, using forged Syrian IDs, or who enter illegally through smuggling networks.

Jordan, officially allowed entry to Palestinians from Syria, holding Jordanian citizenship, but prevent the entry of Palestinians who have expired Jordanian documents. In some cases, they denationalise them and forcibly deport them back to Syria.

Jordanian security forces have also detained and forcibly deported more than 100 Palestinians to Syria since the beginning of 2013, according to 'Analyze the Needs of the Syrian Project, a non-governmental monitoring organisation.

HRW documented seven Palestinians, who were coming from Syria, that were forcibly deported in 2013 and 2014, and four others were transferred to "Cyber City"; a closed facility detention center for Palestinian and Syrians refugees in northern Jordan. In cases of deportation, Jordanian authorities deliberately separated Palestinian men from their families, in some cases, the main provider.



The report stated, "Sana, a Palestinian elderly woman, how the Jordanian authorities precipitated deported her son-in-law Mohammed and his brother, in late 2013, after he violated the law selling vegetables in a cart in Irbid. She also said that the two brothers, who entered Jordan with their Syrian wives using forged IDs, and registered at the UNHCR with false names.

Two days later, Sana, who holds the Jordanian citizenship, went to the police station immediately after she knew about the arrest of her son-in-law, she said, they told me to come back the next day, and they said they would find us a solution. An hour later, Muhammad called me from Syria."

The report added: "deportation and forcible return violates the Jordan's international commitment ; a ban in the international law about the return of refugees and asylum-seekers to places where the danger posed to their lives or freedom, or the return of any person at risk of torture."

In a meeting with HRW in May 2013, Fayez Tarawneh, president of the Royal Court, and the former Prime Minister, defended the non-admission policy, saying, "The influx of large numbers of Palestinians from Syria, would change the demographic balance in the kingdom and would impact on stability. the prevailing belief is that half of Jordan's population, at least of Palestinian origin. Tarawneh said he doubted Jordan's ability to deport Palestinians, who are stateless group, legally to Syria immediately after the conflict ends there, if they were allowed to asylum in Jordan "

Despite the Jordanian non-admission policy, more than 14 thousand Palestinians coming from Syria, until July 2014, to seek support for UNRWA in Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, but Jordan only allowed the entry of 1300, before the authorities begin clearing the Palestinians on the border. Most of them came from the Palestinian refugee camps and villages in the south of Syria, or from the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in the southern suburbs of Damascus; areas that witnessed heavy fighting.

As a result of the Jordanian Government policy, many Palestinians from Syria do not have the proper papers to stay in Jordan, exposing them to exploitation, arrest and deportation. Palestinians coming from Syria do not dare to do so without documentation, to seek protection or redress from the Jordanian government against exploitation and other abuses. They cannot legally reside in the official camps prepared for Syrian refugees and cannot legally work to earn the money needed to rent housing outside the camps.

The donor countries and international aid agencies did not adequately address the humanitarian difficulties faced by the Palestinians, nor provide them with but little humanitarian aid. The Jordan section in the regional response to the Syrian crisis plan for 2014 excludes the Palestinians as does the Common-Agency Task Force, a local mechanism for coordination among aid agencies for responding to the presence of Syrian refugees in Jordan, chaired by UNHCR.

HRW said that international donors and agencies must cooperate with each other to ensure that the Palestinians of Syria will receive humanitarian assistance and protection measures on a par with the services provided to Syrian citizens in Jordan.

The international donors should also raise the level of assistance provided to Jordan and humanitarian agencies concerned about the Syrian crisis.

The report stated: "with the exception of Turkey, all Syria's neighboring countries imposed tight restrictions on the entry of Palestinians fleeing Syria. The neighboring countries should all respect the rights of Palestinian refugees to seek asylum and security outside Syria, as long as they face insecurity and persecution there.

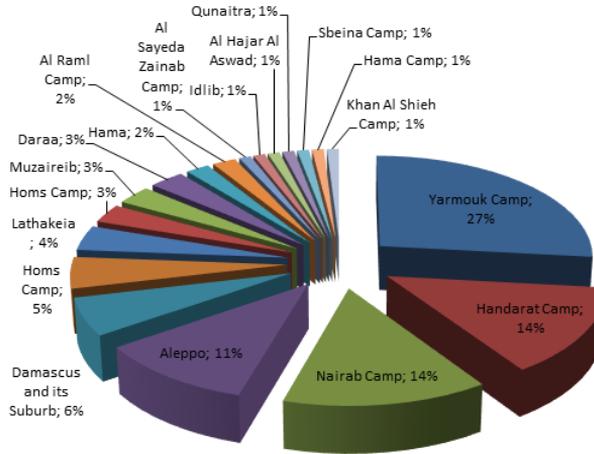
Countries outside the region must provide financial assistance to countries that receive Palestinian refugees from Syria, as well as they should re-examine the approval of the temporary humanitarian resettlement of helpless Palestinian refugees. Nor the Palestinian refugees should waive their right to return as soon as acceptance of an offer to re-temporary resettlement in a third country".⁵

5-Human Rights Watch website: <http://m.hrw.org/node/127887>

Regarding the importance of the report, the research contains the most important information, as stated in the mentioned above website.

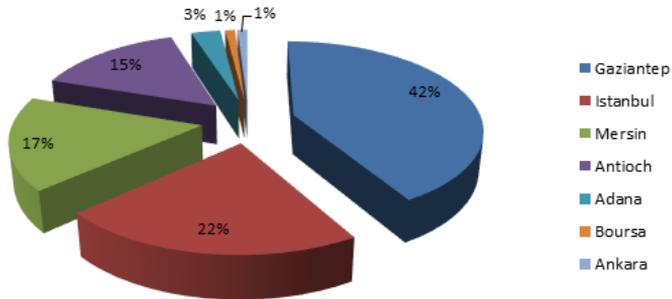
- Palestinians of Syria in Turkey

Turkey has become an alternative option in lieu of successful and legal entry by Palestinian refugees to other Arab states through the usual visa process.



Palestinians of Syria in Turkey According to the Source Cities _____

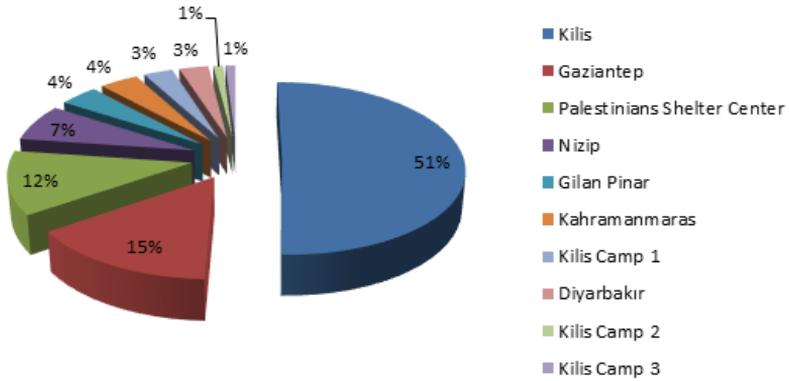
The Distribution of Palestinians of Syria in Turkey by Main Cities



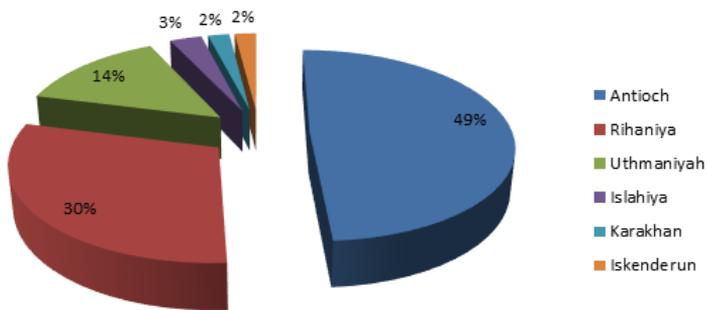
Palestinians of Syria in Turkey Detailed Statistics⁶ _____

6- Information based on a category that is registered at the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Turkey of Vidar Association. report on December 2014.

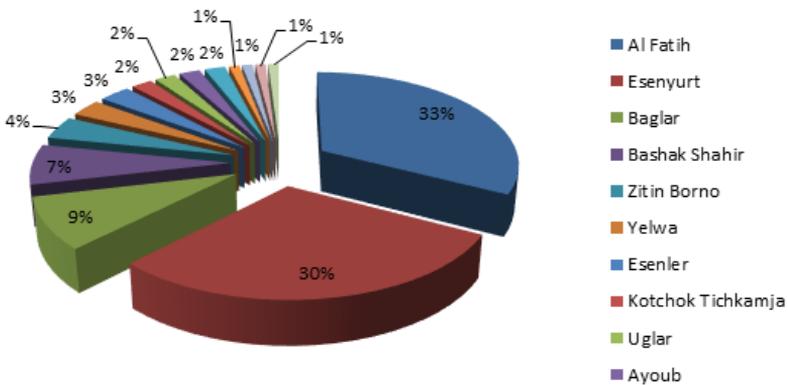
Palestinians of Syria in Gaziantep



Palestinians of Syria in Antioch



Palestinians of Syria in Istanbul



Most Palestinian Syrian refugees managed to reach Turkey through the provinces of Idlib and Aleppo, and then to the province of Hatay (Rihaniyya and Antioch) or Gaziantep province (Kelis) in Turkey. Qamishli Syrian city formed previously, an open road to Mardin and Gilan Pinar, but this road stopped almost completely after recording several assaults by Turkish border guards towards immigrants, on charges of suspicion of belonging to a Kurdish faction in Syria. A refugee stated how the Turkish border police assaulted them in the June 2014, sa: "The Turkish policeman tortured us for an hour, which led to the break in the hand of a young, as well as discoloration and wounds in different parts of the body for the rest of the group, then we were forced to return back to Syria". Another assault case was recorded on 4 September 2011, in the same place.

The refugee, S.A describes the crossing trip towards Turkey, saying: "all refugees pass the border line on foot, for the fact that the cars cannot cross through this rugged area, where a trench was opened. The refugees have to jump and walk for half an hour, then they ride a car in the Turkish side to the nearest city".

In contrast, one cannot deny the fact that Turkey turned a blind eye to the entry of immigrants by smuggling. They were dealt with 'generally' well and were only concerned about the smuggling of contraband such as weapons.. They were also shown to show compassion to those without personal documentation throughout Turkey. It has therefore, been possible to enter the Turkish territory to reach Istanbul in the far north, 1,400km without having to show any evidence.

❖ The Legal Situation of the Palestinians of Syria in Turkey

The term 'travel document for the Palestinians' is not listed in the system of Turkish government departments, which explains the uncertainty in dealing with these cases. The Syrian-Palestinians are not treated as the same as Syrians, noting that the refugee files are made up entirely of Syrians. Palestinainas therefore, have no residencies. However the clinics, hospitals and non-official bodies deal with them in a similar vein to the Syrians.

In February 2014, Palestinian civilian institutions have managed to make some improvements in the file of the Palestinians in Syria with the Turkish government, such as the Pal-

estinian Return Centre, the AGPS, in addition to the Turkish Assembly for Solidarity with Palestine (Vidar). This has resulted in the issuance of a decision, on 19 February 2014, that allows Palestinians, who entered the country illegally, to obtain 'status settlement'; an entry stamp with a six month or one year residency.

The Turkish government has stipulated that this decision is to be done in coordination with the Palestinian Embassy in Ankara, which was involved in the implementation of this resolution.

However, the first batch of those who applied for a 'status settlement' took seven months to attain one. Residencies were distributed to various provinces but the transactional cost for the whole family to reach a residency can reach thousands, particularly for a medium size family, to include costs of translation, ratification, and health insurance. While the first applications have taken so long, the second batch of applicants had not received settlement at the time of reporting.

The Turkish government has dealt with residencies through branches of so-called 'Securities'; a security point of the Interior Ministry, until the beginning of August 2014, when a new legal package was to be issued transferring all cases to new management, developed for this purpose: the General Directorate of Immigration. This was a direct result of progress in negotiations between Turkey and the European Union to resolve the refugee cases and Turkish citizens will be granted the right to enter Europe without a visa.

Among the details of this agreement, which Turkey announced, 1 September 2014 will be a date for accession to the European fingerprint database, so that thumbprints are linked to the Bank of the European information system. The fingerprints of those who applied for an asylum residency in Turkey will be included, after the date mentioned above, to the European database, which will allow European countries to return them back to Turkey later. The results of these developments and their impact on the legal status of the Syrians in general, and the Palestinian Syrians in particular, are not accurately reflected yet, and everyone is awaiting further detailed explanation.

Generally, what was supposed above indicates that Syrians will be free to choose between tourism and humanitarian residency, as humanitarian residency will be subjected to the negotiations development between Turkey and the EU.

According to eyewitnesses, Palestinian Syrians, who hold Syrian travel documents, will not benefit from the new decisions, and will be treated as in the past, therefore, will not be granted the mentioned residencies.

Conversely, Palestinian Syrians will attain better legal status in case of entering into the Turkish territory using a Palestinian Authority passport, as they will be treated in a way to enable them, according to the Foreigners law, to obtain a tourism residency for a year, in addition to the ease of obtaining a tourist visa prior.

AFAD Card

The Turkish government decided, by the Labor Minister, Faruk Jeilak, to issue ID cards for refugees (Yabancı Tanıtma Belgesi), or what is known as AFAD cards. These are issued by disaster and conflict management organisations in Turkey and are mandatory for all refugees who do not have any valid residency in the country.

The Turkish government confirms that Identification card holders will benefit from basic government services, such as medical care, hospitalisation in official hospitals, school enrolment and educational services, as the card gives the holder formal permission to practice work. Thus, the refugees will have the right to work legally and inline with minimum wage according to Turkish law to avoid extortion or exploitation from the need to work for low wages.

The AGPS monitored the Turkish government's refusal of granting AFAD cards to many of those holding Palestinian Syrian travel papers, while others managed to obtain the card with ID, There is no explicit legal provision to exclude them getting it.

❖ Sponsors of the Palestinians of Syria in Turkey

The Turkish government do not recognise Palestinian refugees of Syria, contrary to international norms, and therefore hold no rights- their presence is illegal, as they are not covered by UNRWA or the UNHCR offices.

- The Refugees and the Palestinian Embassy

The role of the Palestinian embassy in Turkey is not adequate for refugees from Syria, and is considered incomprehensibly incomplete and unjustified by many official and popu-

lar Palestinian entities. The only service provided by the Embassy to Palestinians is the granting of a PA passport on condition of owning a Syrian travel document that will cost €50 each, within a period of not less than three months. A number of Palestinian Syrians implemented an open sit-in in front of the Palestinian embassy on 2 April 2014 for one week, in protest at its failure to adequately support them. The logo they chose for the sit-in was 'Bring Us Back to Palestine to live in dignity'. The sit-in turned into a hunger strike and ended without significant results. The sole example of humanitarian provision was one-time financial assistance for Palestinians living in the Kilis shelter Center.

- The Refugees and the General Authority for Palestinian Refugees of the Syrian Interim Government

The Public Authority for Palestinian refugees in Syria is an institution that aims to help the Palestinian refugees inside Syria and those who are displaced to neighboring countries, in order to alleviate human suffering, through relief, development, services, and health projects implemented by the central offices of the Authority, in cooperation and coordination with the sub-committees inside the camps and compounds of the Palestinian refugees.

The authority was established by a decision issued by the prime minister of the interim government of the Syrian Council on 8 April 2014, administratively followed by the presidency of the interim government, as it fulfils its tasks and activities in accordance with the plans and programs that are consistent with the government's policy.

The authority opened the shelter center in the city of Kilis, and implemented ongoing campaigns and relief aid for needy Palestinian families in Syria. It focused on liberated and besieged areas, in Turkish cities, cash handouts for wounded and severely compromised cases in Jordan and Lebanon, provided home allowances for families with no or with chronic disabilities, summer student activities for Palestinian Syrians, and will be launching media campaigns to highlight the plight of the Palestinians of Syria in general.

The Refugees and the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Turkey

The Palestinians of Syria Committee in Turkey that follows the Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (Vader), co-ordinates all the of Palestinian Syrian affairs in Turkey, in order to ease their suffering, improve living conditions, provide legal advice at all levels

and adopt development, relief, and media projects that will shed light on the issue of the Palestinians of Syria and to provide necessary services for decent living.

This committee was launched in November 2013 and took it upon themselves to work on several issues including:

1. **Relief Work:** aimed at providing financial and material aid to needy Palestinians of Syria.
2. **Medical Work:** compensating simple shortage of governmental medical care provided for all refugees, permanent provision of medicine to those in need and devices for the disabled, as well as connecting to public hospitals and health facilities, especially those who arrived recently and do not know the various avenues.
3. **Students Work:** linking Syrian schools with students and families, paying school fees for those in most need, establishing student activities such as summer schools in order to compensate those that had to drop out of school in Syria.
4. **Media Work:** highlighting the plight of the Palestinians of Syria in general, and Turkey in particular. The latter in particular serves attain the right benefits and services to elevate their legal and living status.
5. **Statistical Work:** collating information within a database about Palestinians, Syrians and their movements in order to provide services and to monitor their situation.
6. **Projects Program:** adopting small and individual projects that will help craftsmen turn from being an aid receiver to generating their own productivity, as well as implementing projects that will benefit more than one family.

The committee includes three sub-committees in the provinces of Gaziantep, Antioch, and Istanbul, where the Palestinian presence is most concentrated. They undertake relief work in coordination with other bodies, directed at every single Palestinian or family who left Syria for Turkey. National events take place in keeping with the national agenda, including the establishment of sit-ins during the war on Gaza, and a festival of victory in Gaza that was held in Urfa.

❖ The Reality of the Palestinian Refugees from Syria to Turkey

The Palestinian refugees in Turkey suffer from the apparent absence of aid from official bodies such as UNRWA and UNHCR, but they are getting aid through their own personal communication with Turkish charities and Syrian associations. (It is noted that Syrian associations generally operate for Syrians. It is noted that the activity of the Syrian Associations often provided to the Syrians, and sometimes according to the city, but does not prevent Palestinians from receiving aid. There are a very limited number of associations that help Palestinians in particular, such as the Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (Vidar). Some Turkish municipalities also distributed limited in-kind materials (food, and sometimes mattresses) for families living under its scope of work without discrimination between Palestinians and Syrians.

Turkey is characterised by high cost living compared to the standard of living for those coming from Syria. A large gap already exists between the populations but the huge influx of Syrians to Turkey has led to a high rise in prices and rents of houses, exacerbating their suffering.

Employment opportunities do exist for Palestinian Syrians, and the Syrians in general but they are paid low wages, and are faced with many challenges such as language. The average wage in Turkey is 1500 Turkish Lira (TL) (equivalent to US\$750). Syrians and the Palestinian Syrian receive an average wage of 900 TL (equivalent to circa US\$450).

University graduates who work in teaching are paid a salary of almost 1,400 Syrian pounds, a low amount. Therefore, more than one family member is required to work to meet the family's needs. Palestinians do receive the same healthcare as to the Syrians in Turkish hospitals and other health facilities as medical services are generally free. Any residency or identification card holder can use any government hospital or clinic for medical examination. Surgeries also can also be attained for free in the critical cases. There are a number of private hospitals and clinics that offer low prices for Syrians and which the Palestinians can benefit from. The main problem in dealing with the health sector generally lies in the different language an interpreter is usually necessary in Government hospitals. Arabic translators are usually employed in private hospitals and clinics however.

Syrians and Palestinians alike can enrol their children in Turkish public schools as long as they have residency. Residency requirements, however, are not essential in all provinces.

Syrians usually enrol in Syrian schools, which the Turkish government has allowed in various cities. These schools follow the Syrian interim government of the opposition, where the Syrian curriculum is taught for transitional grades, and the Libyan curriculum for high school. Some of these schools are free and some are paid. These schools however, encounter many challenges and are in debt in most cases.

Regarding university students, the education system in Turkey requires them to overcome the 'Elios' test, a prerequisite for admission to the university. In addition to English language exams for branches taught in English as well as Turkish. Students can provide proof of language to skip this stage, such as a TOEFL certificate, or a certificate of the Institute, "Tomer," or the Institute of "Istanbul University of Languages". The Turkish government agreed to enrol Syrian students in public universities for free, but this decision did not include all Palestinian Syrians, by virtue of their dubious legal status and unconfirmed accommodation. This is one of the main problems facing Palestinian students, having entered the country through illegal means, which denies them residency.

It is mentioned that some private universities facilitate students' legal situation and accept enrolment of Palestinian Syrians but its exorbitant fees make it beyond the reach of most.

Most Prominent Events

- On 3 September 2014, the Turkish border guards attacked two Palestinian Syrian refugees from the Yarmouk refugee camp. The refugees crossed into Turkish territory from Syria via the Qamishli road to escape from the conflict in Syria for fear of being arrested and tortured. In a related context, the Turkish authorities issued a decision to vacate Kilis center of young unmarried Palestinian Syrian refugees. Pursuant to this resolution, the GAPR in the Syrian interim government was responsible for the center, telling young single refugees involved they had a deadline to leave and avoid any action that may be taken by the Turkish authorities against them. Turkish authorities have justified that decision in order to put an end to the problems caused by the presence of unmarried young people with families in one place. On the other hand, a delegation from the Turkish Society Vidar visited Kilis shelter center to see the Palestinian Syrian refugees' conditions and address their needs.
- On 25 September 2014, four Palestinian Syrian families (about 25 members in total)

arrived at Kilis Center, coming from the Lebanese territory, which they left for all the challenges of living there for Palestinians, which made them seek refuge in Turkey.

- On 28 September 2014, rain on Turkey flooded the tents of the Palestinian Syrian refugees in Kilis shelter camp on the Syrian-Turkish border, forcing 300 of them to leave their tents and go to sleep in the “Public Authority for the Palestinian refugee center in Syria” The rains led to power cuts in the center, adding to the difficulty of emptying tent operations. The refugees demanded “the Commission to take prior precautionary measures to face the winter, under the climatic conditions that prevail Turkey, also called for the providing them of safe heating, so as to protect them from fire incidents that may occur during the winter.”

On 29 September 2014, the GAPR in the Syrian interim government issued a statement to stressing that Turkey needs to find a quick solution for families in temporary shelter center in the city of Kilis, after the rainstorms that led to significant damage of tents and their inhabitants. The statement pointed out the need for transfer of these families to camps, where better facilities can be found. The Authority explained that all appeals to the authority of the Palestinian factions within the Turkish league did not lead to any result or the intervention of the authorities to help resolve the problem of hundreds of Palestinian families displaced to Turkey. The Authority did take responsibility for following the issue through however.

At the end of its statement, the Authority stressed that it did not hesitate to carry out its responsibilities in the effort to do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of our people, and firmly rejects denial about the suffering of bids and policies, but they ask everyone to assume their responsibilities in deeds not words.

- On 30 September 2014, Palestinian refugee Yusuf Ahmed Abu Khadra (24 years) from Deraa camp began a hunger strike, in protest against the deplorable living conditions suffered in shelters Kilis on the Syrian-Turkish border. In the center, which includes 95 Palestinian Syrian families, where Abu Khadra expressed his suffering, saying: “I had, such as hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Syria, to leave Dar’aa camp after being bombed and after the deteriorated security situation there, after an arduous journey I arrived at Kilis center in Turkey, and I was hoping to find security and safety in it, but I was shocked and all the families in which the poor services and medical care”. According to him, he had a heart operation, and was in dire need of medication that he had received after only seven days, he also needed 12 inflammation needles, but only received three of them. He continued by saying: “When I checked the interested parties, they evaded the answer, and

said that an amount originally provided for medical, but it is not enough to accommodate all patients in Kilis Center. Abu Khadra called, in front of all the media, particularly Al-Jazeera, to overlook the conditions of the center and its bad services, especially after the tents sank two days ago by rain, which resulted in a number of children who were transferred to the hospital due to exposure to rain and bitter cold.

- On 1 October 2014, the AGPS received a letter from the GAPR in Syria - Syrian interim government (8) to object to the news, that was published by the group, about the hunger strike of refugee Yousif Ahmed Abu Khadra (24 years) from Dar'aa camp and protest the squalid living conditions suffered in Kilis center at the Syrian-Turkish border. The Authority asked to delete the news, because it "does not investigate the truth" according to the letter, and without returning to the media office to hear the Authority's position on the disposal of the refugee, Youssef Abu Khadra.

Dear Action Group for Palestinians of Syria,

Greetings,

We would like to express our protest on the news related to the refugee Yousif Abu khadra who is on hunger strike in Kilis shelter of the General Authority, and the reason for our protest is that you take the news without truth and without returning to the media office to hear the position of the General Authority from the action of the refugee Youssef Abu Khadra.

We wish you the accuracy and objectivity in the transfer of this news, which it was based on your correspondent from inside the center, and we would like to make it clear to you that what was happened is not a refugee strike protest against the living conditions, but the process of blackmail from this person who goes in a hunger strike in order to compel the Commission to pay \$ 1500 TL to him .

This led to the intervention of the Turkish security that considered the refugee Yousif Abu khaddar as he violated the Turkish laws and prosecution and he is considered as wanted to the security after he escaped from the center because of this shameful act. We inform you that your correspon-

dent from inside the center did not take the opinion of the General Authority or asked for the position, which in turn acted unprofessionally and he will take it as personal responsibility.

And because we respect the role of your group in the transfer of the true of the suffering of our people, we ask you to delete this news otherwise we will be forced to protest publicly about what was published on your page as considered including a distortion of the Commission's work and its role in the time that we bear the large burden with the help of our people and to stand by them.

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings...

Media Office,

General Authority for Palestinian refugees in Syria - Syrian temporary government

- On 6 October 2014, Vidar distributed financial aid in Kilise Shelter Center to all the inhabitants, 98 families. The Commission distributed quantity of meat for a sacrificial feast to Palestinian families in the south-east of Turkey including Gaziantep, Kilis, Urfa, Nsb, Mrash, Kilis camp 1, and Gilan Pienaar.
- On 16 October 2014, three families and a number of young Palestinians, who are living in Kilis shelter Center on the Turkish-Syrian border, returned to Syria because of the deplorable living conditions in which they live in Turkey as well as the high prices, lack of a fixed income, and lack of interest by UNRWA and the international organisations for them, having not received food aid for three months.
- On 18 October 2014, the Turkish police arrested 200 Syrian and Palestinian Syrian refugees while trying to migrate from Mersin to Italy. According to information reported by Turkish newspapers, the Turkish gendarmerie in the state of Mersin arrested 200 Palestinian Syrian and Syrian immigrants who were about to ride a boat moored off the coast of the town of Erdmla, where they were transferred to one of the sports center in the town, then they were underwent medical examinations before they were handed over to the Department of foreigners in the Directorate of state Security "Mersin."
- On 13 November 2014, the Turkish Coast Guard arrested 51 Palestinian and Syrian refugees, as they intercepted their boat in the Turkish waters while trying to reach Europe from Turkish beaches, to take them to the town, Garatash where they were held

for one day at “Ganderma” Turkish , and then transferred to a prison in Adana. The detainees included about 10 children and 14 women, including an elderly woman, and 27 young men were taken to the foreign section of the securities Branch of Adana city, where they were held in two separate rooms; one for men and one for women in poor health conditions as a result of high humidity. As well as the rooms included criminal detainees in cases such as drugs and others.

As for the official mobility, the detainees have reported that Turkish police connected with the Embassy of Palestine, which turned them in turn to UNRWA, since the Palestinian Embassy in Ankara told them that “the UNRWA is responsible for them.”

- On 18 November 2014, Turkish authorities released all Palestinian Syrian refugees who were detained in Adana prison, after transferring them to the securities departments, and then to the emergency and wars management organisation center in Turkey (AFAD) in order to take fingerprints and photos of them so as to issue them with IDs. The Turkish government must be called to treat the Palestinian Syrian similarly to Syrian refugees, so as to reduce all demands required by Palestinians. Meanwhile, the Palestinian embassy should play a greater role for its people in providing legal and relief assistance to everyone, as well as the official communication with the Turkish government and increased political and relief attention by Palestinian factions towards Palestinians in Turkey. UNRWA should also be urged to expand its work to include the Palestinian Syrian refugees in Turkey.

- Palestinians on the Road to Europe

Reaching Europe has meant a long and hard journey and refugees have only been compelled to partake upon it as they are leaving even harder conditions. On this journey many go missing, die or arrive after enduring a grueling process. Dozens of Palestinian refugees in and from Syria were victims of scams by human traffickers who dealt with them as commodities and goods to be transported from place to place. Some of them were placed in the basements of the boats, some of them were placed in freezers with vegetables, and some of them were placed in the outer trunks of cars to cut off thousands of kilometers under the desert sun's rays.

❖ Sailing at any Price in Search of Safety

The United Nations considers the Mediterranean is the most dangerous road in the world for migrants.

UNHCR revealed the disastrous outcome of the number of victims of illegal immigrants, who were unable to cross the Mediterranean. Most of them have launched from the Libyan coast heading to Italy and Malta.

At least 3,419 illegal immigrants died in the Mediterranean since January 2014, while more than 207 thousand immigrants tried to cross the Mediterranean since the beginning of the year, the number exceeds about three times the previous record set in 2011, when circa 70,000 immigrants fled from their country in the midst of the Arab Spring.

Access to Europe's Roads

Libya, Egypt and Turkey are the most frequent countries of origin for refugees who embark on journeys by sea towards the Italian coast. Due to lack of legal methods of accessing Arab countries, refugees resort to illegal methods making them vulnerable to arrest and detention or fraud.

Access to Europe from Egypt

Hundreds of Palestinian Syrian families arrived in Egypt during the era of the former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, who allowed the entry of Palestinian refugees to Egypt. Egypt formed a temporary location for some families, until they had the chance of returning to Syria when the situation stabilised. Egypt was a gateway to reach Europe via the death boats or to reach Libya.

After the fall of the Egyptian Government, treatment that turned to the worst possible, as dozens of refugees were beaten, arrested, and kidnapped. All paper-work was stopped to grant residency permits and other certification. There were restrictions on students in schools and those working in Free business, so the the number of Palestinian Syrian refugees in Egypt diminished. As well as risking the death boats, refugees approached Egyptian brokers that connected them to a competent network of human smugglers for sums of money ranging between US\$3, 000 and US\$5000. The journey starts from the coast of Egypt to an Italian ending in Europe; the trip lasts more than ten days in small boats in overcrowded conditions for more than twelve hours on the Egyptian territorial sea. The refugees change later to a larger boat in the international sea, carrying them to the Italian shores, roles between smugglers.



Figure 1 : The Boats' Starting Point from the Port of Alexandria in Egypt towards the Italian Shores

Reaching Europe from Turkey

The security chaos in the Syrian territory, and the collapse of the regime in the border areas, resulted in the crossing of thousands of Palestinian Syrians and Syrians of the northern border to Turkey through Idlib or Aleppo, and then to the province of Hatay (Rihaniyya and Antioch), or Gaziantep province (Kilis). The city of Qamishli in Syria has formed a pass to the Turkish cities of Mardin and Gilan Pienaar.

However, this way was almost completely stopped after recording several assaults by Turkish border guards towards the immigrants, on charges of belonging to Kurdish factions in Syria.

After accessing the Turkish territory and passing the most dangerous stage, which is the border, the refugees head towards Europe via the main paths:

By Land:

The refugees pass either through the Bulgarian border on foot in a dangerous area of forests and swamps, or through the Greek border, which is also dangerous, as it passes by a river. A case of drowning was recorded in this river in August 2014, as a Syrian man died while trying to cross the river, and some other refugees were forced to return back by the Greek coast guards.

By Sea:

Greece Road: through rubber boats (BLM) from the city of Izmer east of Turkey in a two to four hour journey to reach a Greek island. The boats are then destroyed on purpose in order to avoid the enforced deportation back to Turkey. The refugees surrender themselves to the police that detain them for a day or two before giving them expel cards that authorised them to ride the official transportations towards Athena. The range of this trip is US\$1500 per capita, and the rubber boat carries 40 people. If wooden boats are used, the number will be bigger and the cost may be up to US\$3000.

In many cases, the Greek coast guards arrested refugees, as they unplug the boat engine and pull the boat towards the Turkish water. While two cases of drowning were

recorded for the Palestinian woman, Maha Al Saadi and her son “AbdulRahman Al Saadi” on 11 December 2013, after the Greek coast guards stopped their boat and rescued the rest of them.

Italy Road:

A new road, which the journey takes at least one week and maybe up to 10 days to reach the Italian shores similarly as to the trips that are launched from Egypt or Libya. The cost of this journey may reach up to US\$7,000, launching from Mersin or Azmir cities.

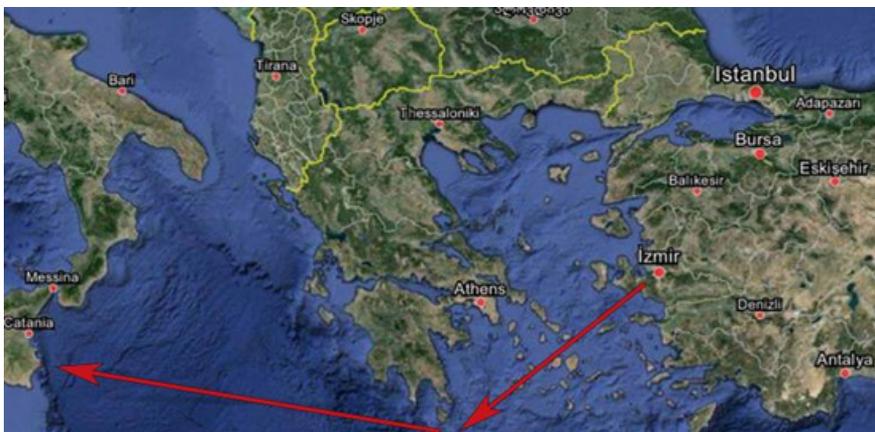


Figure 2 :The Boats Launching Point form Izmer towards the Italian Coasts

Arriving from Libya to Europe

A big number of Palestinian Syrian and Syrian refugees have managed to reach Libya, starting from the Lebanese airport of Beirut, but the deteriorated security situations in Libya, and the stoppage of air navigation prevented their arrival, yet it didn't prevent them finding another alternative road.



Figure (3): The two Points of Boats Launching from Benghazi and Zoara near Tripoli towards the Italian Shores

Reaching Europe through Libya via Algeria

Palestinian refugees managed to reach Algeria by invitation of someone close, but the Algerian government does not recognise them as refugees nor allow their entry. This made some of them resort to forging Syrian passports in order to enter Algeria, as it allows the entry of Syrian refugees, making them vulnerable to arrest, detention, and deportation. On 17 August 2014, the Algerian authorities arrested Palestinian refugee Khaled Abu Leila, from Al-Nairab camp for five days, after arriving from Turkey to Algeria, on charges of entering with a false passport, while he was on his way to Europe via Libya, after he passed by the Libyan Algerian borders, to the Libyan city of Zuwarah, where the death boats launched towards the coast of Italy.

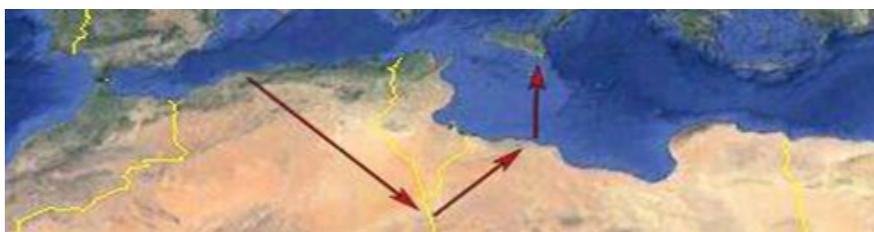


Figure 4: The Way from Algeria to Libya then to the Italian Shores

Reaching Europe through Libya via Sudan

Sudan is one of the few Arab countries that allows granting visa to the Palestinians to access its territory through Khartoum International Airport, so human traffickers tried to find a way that the refugees could pass through it from Sudan to Libya, and then to the Italian coast by wooden or rubber boats. After passing the Sudanese Libyan desert of more than 5,000 km, in a four to six day risky and difficult journey, starting from the end of the dirt road and ending with desert climate, passing through bandits. Subhi Al-Hourani from the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus died as a result of myocardial infarction, and was buried at the Libyan Sudan borders. Thus, the next few days show more stories that have not yet been disclosed.

It is noteworthy that this wild road to get to Libya was not the only road, as large numbers have arrived by the Egyptian Siwa Desert and the Libyan desert Masaaed, the refugees who passed through this road have suffered from many difficulties; some of them had been insulted by the border guards, some of them had been robbed and shot from smuggling gangs and mafias, and some of them wandered in the desert for several days before reaching their destination.



Figure 5: The Way from the Sudanese Libyan Desert to the City of Benghazi towards the Italian Coasts —

❖ Cemeteries in the Middle of the Sea

The asylum journeys to Europe have sequenced through the Egyptian coasts to Italy, then other European Union countries, yet, some refugees failed to reach this destination and were arrested and detained in prison in very hard humanitarian conditions regardless of whether they were children, women or elderly. Those refugees returned humiliated to Syria, in a clear violation of law that prevented return in case of danger, and a complete ignorance of the distress calls that were launched by the refugees and the human rights concerned organisations.

There were many drowning accidents in the Mediterranean sea, followed by arrest and deportation; however, there are some accidents that are unforgettable. For example, on 6 September 2014, a boat carrying 400 migrants of Palestinian Syrians and Syrians, in addition to a large number from Gaza sank and only 11 people survived, including eight Palestinians; two in Italy, three in Malta and three in Greece; three other refugees are in Greece; one of them is Egyptian and two are Syrian.

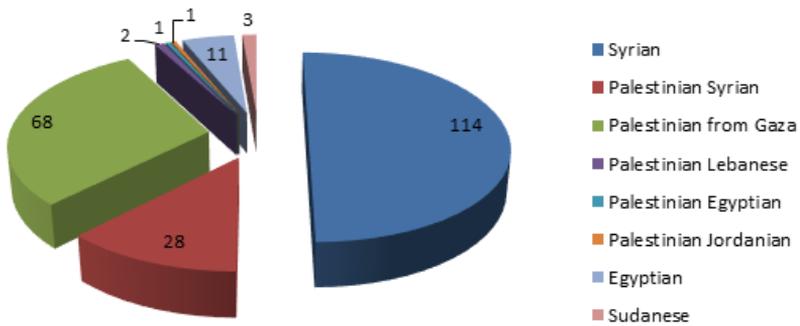
The Missing people in the sea during August and September 2014

The AGPS managed, through the form that was published via its website and social media websites, to receive a number of notifications about missing people during August and September 2014. The total of the notifications has reached 228; 22 per cent of them are female and 78 per cent are male; 177 males and 55 females from different nationalities. They included 114 Syrian refugees, 68 Palestinians of Gaza, 28 Palestinians of Syria, 11 Egyptians, a Palestinian of Jordan, a Palestinian of Egypt, and three Sudanese and Libyans. The notifications indicated the loss of 215 people who were on the boats that were launched from the Libyan city of Zowara and Alexandria, Egypt, in addition to 11 survivors and two victims. It is noted from the data that were added to the form that most missing people are 30-28 years, as the total number is 108 people, then those who are 31-40 years, 47 missed people, meanwhile, children under 18 are 35 missing.

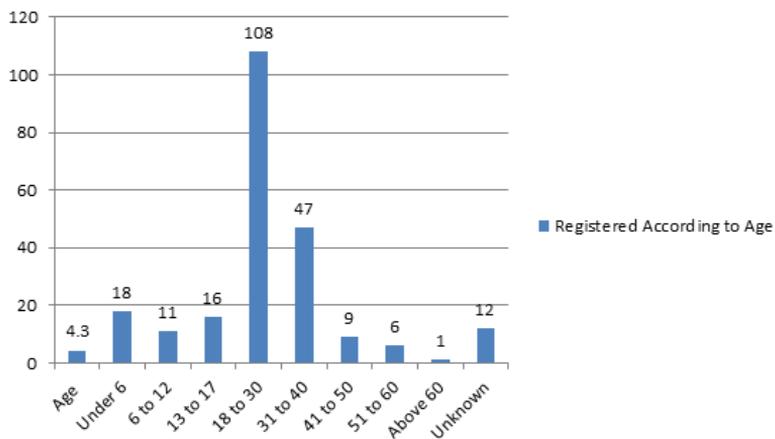
Indicators

Nationality	
Syrian	114
Palestinian from Gaza	68
Palestinian Syrian	28
Sudanese	3
Egyptian	11
Palestinian Lebanese	2
Palestinian Egyptian	1
Palestinian Jordanian	1

Registered People According to Nationality

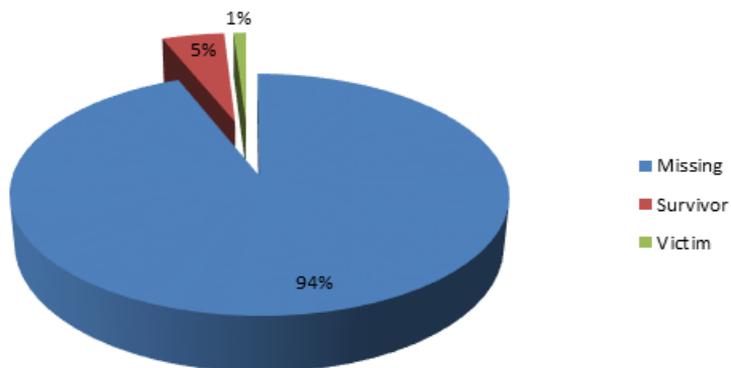


Age	
Under 6	18
6-12	11
13-17	16
18-30	108
31-40	47
41-50	9
51-60	6
Above 60	1
Unknown	12



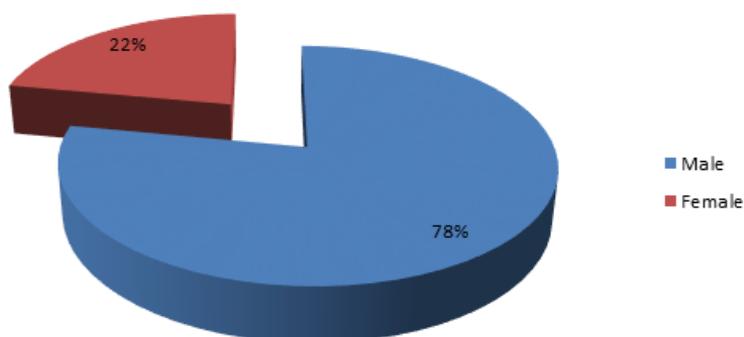
Current Situation	
Missing	215
Survivor	11
Victim	2

Registered People According to the Current Situation



Gender	
Male	177
Female	51

Registered According to Gender



❖ Obstacles on the Way

Dozens of appeals were made by Palestinian Syrian refugees who are detained in the European or Arab prisons on charges of illegal immigration.

1. Macedonia

The AGPS documented, on 22 September 2014, opening fire by the Macedonian coasts police at a group of Palestinians of Syria while crossing its territory to Europe, which led to the injury of the child Mohammed Hafez Hassan, 13 years, who was hit by three bullets and was taken to Mother Teresa hospital for treatment in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, as well as they arrested a number of Palestinian Syrian refugees, some of them were identified; they are: Omar, Ghassan, and Mowafaq Abu Shola.

The group also monitored, on 14th of October, an appeal launched by about “300” Palestinian Syrian and Syrian refugees in Macedonia to the United Nations, international or-

ganizations, and human rights organizations to intervene for finding a solution to their problem and to allow them to immigrate to European countries. They also demanded for the improvement of their living conditions inside Ghazi Baba Camp in which they live. A refugee described their humanitarian situation as a "miserable" due to the lack of shelter for all refugees. He added that many of them sleeping on the ground, which resulted in a state of frustration and depression.

On 22nd of November 2014, the AGPS received a call from Ms. Ilham Saleh's family, a Palestinian refugee from Khan Al Shieh camp in Damascus suburb, who was arrested with her children while trying to reach Europe via Macedonia. In details, Ms. Ilham Saleh, 35 years came along with her three children: Hamza Saleh (9 years), Mohammed Saleh (8 years), and Salah Saleh (4 years), in addition to her niece Zeina Joseph (3 years) with a group of Palestinian refugees from Khan Al Shieh camp in Damascus suburb to reach Europe by land, from Macedonia towards Serbia. The smuggler's car was crashed and they were injured, while the Macedonian police arrested them, and deported the majority of the group to the border, but it kept arresting the mother "Ilham Saleh" and the four children. They were transferred to prison in the Macedonian capital Skopje and stayed there for three months in very bad conditions, without any contact with the outside world, as her family communicated with them only twice during that period. During the two short calls, the mother appealed to all parties to intervene to release them and to end their suffering inside the prison, she said: "They told us that we will stay in detention until the date of the court session to provide testimony against the smuggler."

Her family also appealed the Red Cross and the Palestinian embassy in Bulgaria, for the fact that there is no Palestinian embassy in Macedonia, but the visit of the Palestinian ambassador – according to the family testimony - and the series of meetings in Macedonia, did not lead to any results related to them. Even the ambassador was not able to meet the mother and her family, as they added that the Palestinian embassy in Bulgaria avoids responding to their contacts and inquiries about their daughter and her children.

2. Poland

On 30 October 2014, the AGPS received an appeal through a phone call from a detained refugee in Poland, where he stated that “the Polish authorities arrested 12 Palestinian Syrian and Syrian refugees, including a woman from Khan Al Shieh camp in Damascus suburb on charges of illegal entry. The Polish authorities issued sentences against them for three months, and asked them to choose either to request for asylum in Poland or spend three months in prison.”

He also said: «The refugees have implemented a hunger strike to protest their detention by the Polish authorities for up to 48 days for some of them, and added:» cases of fainting occurred in the ranks of the Palestinian and the Syrian refugees during the hunger strike, where one of them was transferred the hospital. He said «They had not been beaten or abused by the Polish authorities, but they took their fingerprints and photographs, assuring them that such actions are criminal proceedings and not to seek asylum in Poland.» The refugees appealed all parties, international human rights organizations, and the Palestinian embassy in Poland for urgent intervention to put an end to their suffering in Poland and allow them to catch up with their relatives in other European countries.

3. Serbia

Dozens of Palestinian Syrian detained refugees in Serbian prisons launched urgent distress calls, where they appealed, through the AGPS all parties and institutions concerned with human rights and the official Palestinian institutions of urgent intervention to put an end to their suffering. The Serbian authorities arrested on charges of illegal immigration, demanding deportation to Greece as soon as possible.

In details, on 11th of July 2014, the Serbian police arrested “29” Palestinian refugees, most of them are from Khan Al Shieh Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus suburb for five days while trying to travel to a European country through the airport, and then held in Cap Dom prison in Nice Serbia, in condition of leaving at a later time to Macedonia.

According to a Palestinian Syrian detained refugee in Serbian prisons testimony, “the prison administration treats them very badly, to the point of beatings, insults, and hu-

miliation in some cases,” said: “The prison lacks the minimum level of hygiene, whether personal or public, which led to infectious diseases. “He added: “The real suffering manifested in the strict laws that were applied towards us, where everything is scheduled, breakfast at 6:00 Am, and if someone was late he will be punished, beaten, and cursed by prison guards. He also mentioned that “there are two daily meetings, at night and in the morning and this is what made us feel like we are inside a prison intended to undermine our humanity and punish us.”

4. Greece

Greece is one of the most prominent stations which thousands of refugees from Syria pass through it in order to complete their way to the rest of the European countries. However, the Greek authorities have tightened procedures towards refugees who cross its territory, forcing hundreds of them to stay for several months in Greece, depleted of their savings for their flight.

The Greek authorities inhumanly treat the refugees who come for their territory in order to immigrate to European countries. On 20th of August 2014, the authorities arrested “108” Palestinian refugees, including “25” children, “36” woman, and a number of wounded while trying to travel to a European country through its airport on charges of illegal immigration. They were detained in the Greek island of “Simi”, and then they were released after the intervention of a number of human rights organizations and international institutions.

On 4th of September, the Greek Coast Guards stopped a rubber boat near the Greek island of Samos, which was carrying Palestinian and Syrian immigrants, and was heading to Greece. The members of the Greek police took out the immigrants of their boat and beat them then took all their money and cellphones, and asked them to return to Turkey on board of the same boat.

On 22nd of September, the detained Palestinian refugees in Greek prisons launched an appeal through the AGPS to the human rights and civil society organizations to intervene for their release, after being arrested by the Greek authorities on charges of illegal immigra-

tion for nearly a month, and detained at (Makdeniza) Camp in (Maneyadi) area in Athens, and they live in miserable and harsh detention conditions.

Accordingly, the Palestinian Syrian refugees decided to start an open hunger strike, in protest against the continued detention in inhumane conditions, and the injustice done to them.

In addition, a number of activists and social media pages; such as (Facebook) launched a solidarity campaign with the detained Palestinians and Syrians, to highlight their suffering in Greek prisons and demanding urgent action in order to release them.

In turn, the AGPS denounced the constantly arrest by the Greek authorities for Palestinian Syrian refugees and demanded the UNHCR to assume their responsibilities towards them, pointing out that the action by the Greek authorities with refugees fleeing from the war in this way is contrary to international law and international norms.

In an escalatory step, to protest against poor living conditions, and to demand the deportation to European countries, Palestinians of Syria in Greece implemented several sit-ins in front of the Greek parliament in Athens. A lot of them were transferred to hospitals as a result of fatigue and fainting.

5. Cyprus

On 26th of September 2014, the Cypriot coast Guards confirmed that they rescued a boat that was launched from the shores of Mersin in Turkey and have at least about 345 people, including 52 children, 93 women, and 200 men from the Palestinian Syrian and the Syrian refugees, more than 70 per cent of them are Palestinian refugees from Syria, according to a statement of the Palestinian Foreign Ministry. The Cypriot Ministry of Defense announced that it had received a distress call through the radio from a ship about to sink, about 50 nautical miles south-west of the city of Paphos, as the coast Guards rushed to rescue the boat and its people. The statement pointed out that all refugees who were saved are fine and in a good health.

The Palestinian Syrian refugees organized a sit-in on the ship, which rescued them and refused to get off, demanding the Cypriot authorities to deport them to Italy, but those authorities forced them to get off the barge by force and took them to a dedicated center for asylum for illegal refugees.

Consequently, the refugees launched a distress call to appeal the international Red Cross, all institutions and humanitarian agencies, the European Commission, and the Palestinian consulate to intervene to solve their problem and release them. On 30th of September, they sent a letter to the Cypriot authorities, demanding to allow them to leave the territory and complete their journey towards the European countries, which was the point of traveling since the beginning, and appealed to the United Nations Organization, the (UNHCR), and all international organizations to help them to overcome their plight and to achieve their hopes for access to European countries and reunite with their families.

They also carried out on 3rd of October, an open sit-in in front of the Cypriot capital, Nicosia, the United Nations Organization, and the (UNHCR) to demand helping them to overcome their plight, to access to European countries and be reunited with their families.

As a young Palestinian detainee in Cyprus tried, on 6th of October, to commit suicide, in protest at the poor conditions he suffered, at the same time he demanded granting him a residency in one of the European countries, and let him out directly from the detention camp.

6. Albania

The Albanian authorities have taken a decision to deport 21 Palestinian Syrian refugees who had been detained in charges of illegal immigration; they are: (Awaad Mohammed, Hassan Hassan, Emad Moghrabi, Ali Ali, Loi Ali, Adnan Mahmoud, Hassan Fadi, Mohammed Abdel-Dayem, Abla Abdel Aziz, OmarAl Tayyar, Saleh Maria, Ahmad Hassan, Muhanad Mohammed, Mohammed Al Tayyar, Osman Nadi, Walid Al Falaj, Deiaa Al Dein Ali, Ahmed Ali, Bilal Ali, Wisam Mahmoud, and Hamza Saleh), where the Albanian Authorities deported them to Greece, according to the laws in place and the agreements between Greece and Albania, regarding the illegal immigrants.

In the context of monitoring the consequences of the detainee issue in Albania, the detained Palestinian Syrian refugees in Albania demanded the Palestinian Ambassador Yasser Al-Najjar, the need to intervene to expedite the deportation to Greece.

According to the statement, issued by the Palestinian embassy in Albania, which was distributed by the AGPS, the Palestinian Embassy in Albania received news reported that some Palestinian refugees who came from the Syrian camps arrived in Albania through Greece, where they were taken from the Albanian Greek border to the detention center of the refugees in Albania.

The Palestinian ambassador in Albania Yasser Najjar said: “The Palestinian embassy contacted with the concerned Albanian parties to check and look at the situation, where he agreed with the director of the detention center to provide some of their personal needs.”

Destination European Countries for the Palestinians of Syria

Ways not less difficult than the reasons that forced the Palestinian Syrian refugees to go to Europe, in hope of finding the dignity and safety, as the Palestinian refugees from Syria headed to a number of European countries, as the basic destinations are Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Austria, Belgium, Britain and France.

The explanation of the most prominent destination for Palestinian Syrian refugees:

1. **Sweden:** almost the first destination for Palestinians of Syria, for many reasons, the most important is to give permanent residency for those coming from Syria, as well as easy access to citizenship, compared to most other countries. One of its negatives is the procedures delay, where it may take several months to a year to get a residency in addition to the delay of reunion that might be up to about a year and a half. The number of Palestinian Syrian refugees who have arrived in Sweden since the beginning of the war in Syria until the end of November 2014 estimated at about 16 thousand refugees, according to the Swedish Immigration Department statistics.
2. **Netherlands:** one of the most important destination for the Palestinians of Syria, because the residency and reunification procedures only take three to six months, but it began to take longer time in recent months, due to the large demand of immigrants, as it is one of the states that facilitate granting nationality.

3. **Germany:** The first destination of the unmarried young Palestinian refugees because of the work and study opportunities. It is the only destination for refugees who have left their fingerprints in Italy, where many German states condone the Italian system of fingerprints, and does not apply the Dublin Convention. But one of its disadvantages is the difficulty of obtaining German citizenship.
4. **Denmark:** its conditions are similarly as to Netherland, as it is one of the countries that provide high financial assistance to refugees, but it has issued recently a decision states that the residency will be only for one year without allowing family unification during that year.
5. **Norway:** the situation is similar to Sweden, may take longer, so it is one of the few countries intended by the refugees.
6. **Austria, Belgium, Britain, Switzerland, and France:** Britain is one of the few destinations for refugees, as reaching it takes more effort and money, Switzerland does not grant asylum but in rare cases if the refugees were able to prove that they are at risk because of their personal, political, or human rights activities. Meanwhile, the procedures in Belgium and Austria are acceptable, but most refugees prefer not to search for other destinations, while most of those who went to France are intellectuals, writers, and Palestinian politicians.

Classification of Palestinian Refugees in the European Countries

The Palestinian Syrian refugees in most European countries are classified under the title of “stateless,” where they don’t register as Syrians or Palestinians. Classifying them that way is the largest inhibitor to access accurate numbers of refugees in Europe. They are grouped within the classification of many other refugees from Kuwait Bedouins, Kurds and others from Africa. There are also hundreds of cases in which the Palestinian Syrians registered as Syrian, either because of errors in translation or the desire of some refugees, especially the loss of all their identity papers, where some Syrian authorities provide them with identity papers.

9-The EU Statistics for the Stateless Refugees <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Statistics

General Statistics of the European Union indicate that the number of refugees who were received during 2014 has increased by nearly 25 per cent, compared to the same period last year, where the number reached 264 thousand refugees, the Palestinians and the Syrians are part of them, while the same period last year they were 212.2 thousand refugees.

However, the number of Palestinian Syrian refugees who have arrived in Europe required researching the European Union statistics that describe the Palestinian Syrian refugees under the category of “Stateless”, which includes other numbers of Kurdish refugees, Kuwaiti Bedouins, and Somalis, who are estimated at about 16 per cent.⁸

Returning to the European Union’s statistics, the number of people classified as “Stateless” is estimated about 27 933 refugees.⁹

For a more accurate estimation of the Palestinian refugees from Syria, 16 per cent of that number must be omitted, where the outcome number is 23,464, which is the closest accurate number for the Palestinian Syrian refugees in Europe during 2011, 2012, 2013 and 11/2014.

European Union Statistics for the “Stateless” Refugees till 11/2014

	2011	2012	2013	Till 11/2014
	2465	3513	9620	12335
Total		27933		

Most Prominent Problems Faced by the Palestinian Syrian

Refugees in Europe

Arrival in Europe is seen as the solution to the problems faced by many refugees. However, there are many obstacles faced in Europe as summarised below:

1. Refugees are forced to provide fingerprints in Italy. This means they are prevented from seeking asylum in other European countries, with the exception of some German states, which may neglect the prints. The Agreement of the Dublin Convention will be applied on the refugees who leave fingerprints in Italy, the agreement insures that the refugee should be returned to the first country that he/she had his/her fingerprints in.
2. Long waiting periods (up to a year) that are spent by many refugees awaiting their residencies.
3. The delay of family reunions for periods of up to more than a year and a half, making the refugees and their families unsettled, especially in the case the availability of most of the families in dangerous areas. In addition to the economic burdens as a result of the delay of reunion.
4. The difficulty of the refugees' families' access in Syria to the European embassies in Lebanon or in Turkey, due to the prevention of their entry to Turkey and the strict procedures of Lebanon.
5. The absence of a representative to follow up their problems and introduce them to the community that they live in after leaving their camps.
6. The difficulty of languages and getting homes due to the huge number of immigrants to European countries
7. The high cost of transportations and poor communications between the Palestinians of Syria refugees due to long distances.

The Absence of National Responsibilities towards the Crises of the New Palestinian Asylum

In an attempt to investigate the responses of the Palestinian official acts toward the crises of the new Palestinian asylum, “the reaction and shy mobility of the National references about the disasters of the new Palestinian asylum was remarkable. The required role to follow the drowning and open the necessary investigations regarding the violations towards the Palestinian refugees in the Mediterranean Sea or on land between the countries at airports or border, and the arrest and detention in very bad conditions, or deportation to countries of origin is still absent.

The Palestinian official shortage seemed clear from the inability to resolve the Palestinian refugees stranded problems in various places of refuge and limiting the role of reassuring at best without making any changes to their situation, but there was a clear run away of any role towards them. The role of the Palestinian embassy in Egypt confined to send a representative, who told the detainees that there are no solutions, as they will remain in prison until they accept deported to Syria”, as the Palestinian embassy in Turkey transferred the issue of the detainees in Adana prison to the UNRWA, in clear evasion of their responsibilities.

Popular and Non-Governmental Institutional Mobility

In contrast, the role of the active Palestinian institutions in Europe was clear, despite the modest capacities available, which led to results relatively under the required level, if the intervention was made by the Palestinian official authorities and official demand from the Italian authorities or Maltese or Egyptian, for example, to disclose the fate of hundreds of missing people in the sea, and to open a criminal investigation to find those who caused the sinking of the boat as required by the diplomatic relations between the countries.

Popular and non-governmental dialogue was carried out regarding the arrest of Palestinian Syrian refugees in Egypt, as the Palestinian House in Switzerland demanded, in a press statement issued on the 5 November 2014, the Egyptian authorities to immediately release the detainees. The Palestinian House also warned the risk of handling them to the Syrian authorities in light of the ongoing war. It called the humanitarian and human rights

organizations to assume its responsibilities and to contact directly with the affected people and to inspect their conditions and needs. The Palestinian House assumed the detainees as victims of the human traffickers' deception.

A number of activists and human rights activists launched a campaign on 7 November 2014 entitled "Egyptian Authorities: Well Treatment with Palestinian and Syrian Refugees", the campaign was launched through the Avaaz Organisation website. The activists appealed to the Egyptian authorities for not deporting the detained Palestinian and Syrian refugees back to Syria for the risk they may face. Amnesty International demanded on 13 November 2014, the Egyptian authorities to immediately release the detainees and not to deport them back to Syria for the risk they may face.





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