



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"7 Years since 36 Palestinians Were Killed by Chemical Weapons in Syria"

- **Palestinian Refugee Released from Syrian Jail**
- **Palestinian Refugee Fayad AlShehabi Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Prisons**
- **UNRWA to Transfer Cash Aid for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon**
- **Relief Campaign Kick-Started by Volunteers in Khan Dannun Displacement Camp**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

On the seventh anniversary of the “chemical massacre”, perpetrated on August 21, 2013 in Rif Dimashq, AGPS warns that the Palestinian refugee community in Syria has been disastrously affected by the onslaughts launched by the Syrian government army using internationally prohibited weapons, namely napalm, cluster grenades, and barrel bombs.

August 21 is a reminder of the offensive that had hit Zamalqa and Mu'dhamiyat AlSham towns, in Rif Dimashq, and which took away the lives of hundreds of civilians, among them 36 Palestinians, due to heavy inhalation of toxic gas. Heavy material damage was also inflicted on Palestinian refugee camps and shelters, along with UNRWA facilities.



The list of Palestinian victims includes 18 from the Ghazi family, in Zamalka, and seven other people in Mu'dhamiyat AlSham.

AGPS continues to call on all warring actors in Syria to abide by their obligations under international law and protect civilians during armed conflicts.



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AGPS urges the international community and UNRWA to live up to their duties as regards the situation in war-ravaged Syria and to work on providing Palestinian refugees with physical and legal protection.

AGPS also calls for serious action to bring war criminals in Syria before international courts.

Last year, activists said that Syrian government forces ravaged the Zamalka graveyard, where the victims of the 2013 massacre have been buried. The activists warned that the dead bodies might have been transferred to an unknown location.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Ahmad Hasan was released from the state-run Adra penal complex, where he had been held for nearly one year and a half.

Mahmoud is a resident of Jileen refugee camp, south of Syria.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Fayad Abdul Karim Shehabi has been secretly locked up in Syria's state prisons since November 2013.





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An ex-prisoner said he had met Fayad, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, in 2014 in Branch 215. Other reports said he was spotted in Sednaya military prison. His exact condition and whereabouts remain unknown.

According to AGPS statistics, 1,794 Palestinian refugees, including 110 women and girls, have been mysteriously locked up in Syrian government dungeons.

In another development, unofficial sources said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will transfer cash aid for Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon on Friday.

A few days earlier, UNRWA said it delayed delivery of cash aid because it has been seeking higher currency exchange rates in an attempt to increase the purchasing value of the allocated grants.

The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.



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In the meantime, a relief campaign was launched by activists and volunteers in Khan Dannun refugee camp to assist vulnerable families whose situation has been exacerbated by the lockdown measures imposed across the war-torn country in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Volunteers will collect food items from local residents and distribute them to cash-stripped families.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were live in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage laborers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.



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The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Two UNRWA schools premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.

The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure, affecting the electric network and the sewerage system. The camp suffers from sporadic sewage blockages due to the increased pressure on the existent sewerage system, which was designed for only 10,000 inhabitants, while there are now significantly more. Water supply resources have also been affected and the camp suffers from water shortages, especially during the summer months.

Many school children have dropped out or work after school hours to support their families. The camp also suffers from a high incidence of inherited diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anemia.

