



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS Report: Pushbacks of Palestinian Refugees from Europe to Syria Life-Threatening"

- Leaked Document: Israeli Soldiers Buried in Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Pledges to Transfer Cash Grants to Palestinians of Syria in USD
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Arrested in Ein AlHilweh Camp
- Turkish Interior Minister Pledges to Enhance Situation of Palestinian Refugees



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Latest Developments

On October 12, 2020, AGPS issued a new report entitled “Europe: Deportation of Palestinians of Syria”.

The report takes Palestinians fleeing Damascus and its suburbs as a case study.

It highlights the life-threatening hazards of the forcible deportation of asylum seekers to Syria.

The report provides answers to some of the controversial issues raised by European right-wing governments regarding the security situation in and around Damascus.

The report refers to Denmark’s decision to strip 94 Palestinians from Syria of their visas on claims that Damascus has become a safe destination.

The report concludes that the arguments provided by Denmark and other governments claiming that Syria is safe to return to are not only counterfeit but they encourage European bodies to force their governments to take similar closed-door immigration policies.

Meanwhile, UNRWA’s Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said the Agency will transfer cash aid to Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon in US dollars.



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During a visit to Ein AlHiwleh refugee camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, on March 29, Lazzarini said the cash grants will be delivered to the concerned refugees sometime soon, as part of the Agency's emergency plan to respond to COVID-19.

Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon joined a rally held outside of the Palestine Embassy in Beirut to call for urgent humanitarian assistance.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, said UNRWA in a fact sheet entitled "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021".

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA's factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.



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Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, former Israeli Security Minister Naftali Bennett revealed a document in Arabic, allegedly written by late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, indicating the place of burial of three Israeli soldiers killed in the battle of Sultan Yaqoub in the Lebanese Bekaa, during the first Israeli war on Lebanon in 1982.

WallaNews, a Tel Aviv-based Hebrew news agency, said that the document contained a detailed map of the cemetery of Palestinian soldiers in the Yarmouk refugee camp, located near the Syrian capital, which was designated for the burial of Palestinian Liberation Organization martyrs who were killed after 1980.

The document also explains that the Syrians mummified Israeli corpses and placed them in fortified coffins in order to preserve them and facilitate the identification of their owners. An accurate description of the location of these graves says, “near the grave of the martyr Abdul Aziz Al-Wajih,” a PLO fighter.

The Israeli report said that Bennett obtained the document and transferred it to the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in July. The agency quoted a security official as saying that the information presented in the document was already well-known to the intelligence community.



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Although the source noted that it was the handwriting of Yasser Arafat, he stressed that more evidence was needed.

“It is very similar to Arafat’s handwriting, but we do not have conclusive evidence of that,” he said.

It is noteworthy that two years ago, Russia sought to mediate between Syria and Israel in order to search for the bodies of Israeli soldiers buried in Syria.

The Russian military and Syrian regime have recently launched excavations in a cemetery at the Yarmouk Refugee Camp in Damascus allegedly in search of the remains of Israeli soldiers who went missing during the First Lebanon War in 1982, Israeli news reported, citing Syrian media.

The missing soldiers are Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, who participated in the First Lebanon War and have been considered missing in action since 1982.

Feldman and Katz were members of late Zechariah Baumel's military unit and fought together in the Battle of Sultan Yacub between Israel and Syria in June 1982. The battle took place in Lebanon, near the Syrian border.

Following the battle that lasted several hours, six soldiers were declared missing in action. Later, it became clear that two of the six were captured by the Syrian army and one was killed in action. The fate of the other three – Feldman, Katz and Baumel – remained unknown.



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That changed in April 2019, when the body of Sgt. Zachary Baumel was finally returned to Israel after nearly 37 years. He was identified by his DNA at the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute and buried in special ceremony on Mount Herzl attended by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin.

Meanwhile, Fatah security forces deployed in Ein AlHilweh refugee camp, south of Lebanon, arrested three Palestinian activists from Syria on Wednesday, March 31, after they launched calls for a vigil outside of the Palestine Embassy in Beirut to urge the Palestinian Authority to assume its responsibilities regarding vulnerable families.

The three Palestinians were subjected to intensive questioning and harassment at a Fatah-run site in the camp.

Two of the arrestees were released hours later. The other was released the following day.

In the meantime, Turkey's Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu pledged to enhance the dire humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees in Turkey.

The promises were made as he received a delegation from the Palestine Embassy in Turkey, led by Ambassador Fayed Mustafa, on April 1.

The Turkish Minister lauded the strong bilateral bonds between the Palestinian and Turkish peoples, saying his country will forever stand up for the legitimate Palestinian cause.



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