



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Following New Video of Torture Victims, Palestinian Families Express Concern over Fate of Forcibly-Disappeared Relatives in Syria

- Prisoners Families Suspicious about Presidential Amnesty in Syria
- Resident of Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp Freed from Syria Prison
- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Long For Eid Joy



Latest Development

Palestinian prisoners in Syria and their families have been deprived of the joy of Eid in the war-torn country, where thousands of civilians have been killed and thousands more have fallen prey to enforced disappearance.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees, including minors and women, have been held behind Syria's prison bars.

“We have not celebrated Eid for years. We miss our father so much”, said a prisoner's son who spoke with AGPS on condition of anonymity. “I always dreamt of reuniting with my father who was kidnapped at a checkpoint in Rif Dimashq in 2015. I wish my father would knock at the door and hug me tight, so tight”.

“After watching the new video I lost hope”, he said, referring to a footage published by the Guardian on Thursday showing a massacre taking place in Tadamon, near Syria's capital Damascus, in April 2013, and claiming the lives of 41 people, including three Palestinian refugees.

The three refugees are Wasim Omar Seyam, Sa'id Ahmad Khatab, Abd Luay AlKubra, residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus. The piece published by the Guardian was called “Massacre in Tadamon: how two academics hunted down a Syrian war criminal,” and written by Middle East correspondent Martin Chulov.

The British newspaper reported that the mass grave contained at least 41 bodies following the massacre. The bodies were then



doused with fuel and set alight. In the video footage, soldiers could be heard laughing. The massacre took place just a few miles from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power.

Umm Marwan, a Palestinian refugee woman residing in Sweden, said her son has been detained since 2013. "I've never thought that extra-judicial execution could turn into a systematic retaliation weapon. I've spent a lot of money and left no stone unturned to identify my son's condition and whereabouts, but to no avail".

"I've been told he was executed in prison; But I still can't believe my eyes. My son is innocent", she said with tears in her eyes.

"However, after I watched the recent video of AlTadamon massacre I became almost sure that my son, a 1st year university student, was cold-bloodedly executed."

Another Palestinian refugee from Yarmouk Camp told AGPS:

"Regime officers deployed at military checkpoints are monsters. None of us could utter a word or use the mobile phone at those checkpoints. Imagine that a smile could be a reason for detention and even murder."

According to AGPS data, 101 Palestinian refugees have been subjected to extra-judicial execution since the outburst of Syria's warfare until April 30, 2022.

Affidavits by ex-detainees continue to provide evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,



Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

Along similar lines, families, including Palestinian refugees, assembled in the "President's Bridge" area, awaiting the arrival of buses carrying people who have been held for years in Syria's infamous prisons, many for participating in the 2011 protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

Other families have gathered since Monday in Sednaya, north of Damascus, which is home to Sednaya, Syria's largest and most notorious military prison.

Palestinian refugee families expressed fear that their relatives would not be included in the amnesty, saying they have suspicions as to how sincere the Syrian regime could be.

On Saturday, Assad issued a decree giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022. The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.



Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad's government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

The Prisoners' Council said the regime claimed 2,500 people would be included in the amnesty. However, no more than 40 people have been released so far.

Nizar Sedkni, deputy justice minister, said the amnesty included those convicted of various crimes, including being involved in or financing a "terror group", a term often used for opposition groups.

Justice Minister Ahmed el-Sayed described the amnesty as a comprehensive national reconciliation, telling the state-operated al-Watan newspaper that it was contributing to the return of thousands of refugees.

The releases come after the Guardian revealed last week that in 2013 military security agents executed about 42 people by pushing them into a hole, shooting them and then burning them.

Thousands of Syrians were discovered killed under torture when a defector leaked nearly 50,000 photographs in 2014, showing the bodies of some 7,000 detainees mutilated by torture.

Over 1,700 Palestinian refugees are believed to be languishing in Syria's prisons, many of them have spent nearly a decade in prison while scores of others died under torture behind prison bars.

Meanwhile, a resident of the Palestinian refugee camp of Khan Eshieh was released from a regime prison in Syria, where he had been secretly held for years.



AGPS has kept his name secret over security concerns.

AGPS data indicates that over 1,800 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of 633 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Little news of detainees ever makes it out of Syria's prisons, with families often paying huge sums of money for a scrap of information about their relatives.

In the meantime, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have expressed hope that life would be back to normal in the ravaged camp.

Recently, families and children have been spotted at the Abu Hashish Square, where swings have been installed.

As the holy Eid AlFitr (Fast-breaking festival) has been celebrated by Muslims across the globe, Palestinian refugees in Syria have been deprived of the joy ordinarily sparked by such an occasion.

In a place where neither vital facilities nor leisure amenities are made available, the advent of Eid meant that dozens of displaced Palestinian and Syrian families spend the occasion in the poorly-equipped displacement camps.



Eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, some 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in the war-torn country, where they have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UNRWA data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond;

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.