



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

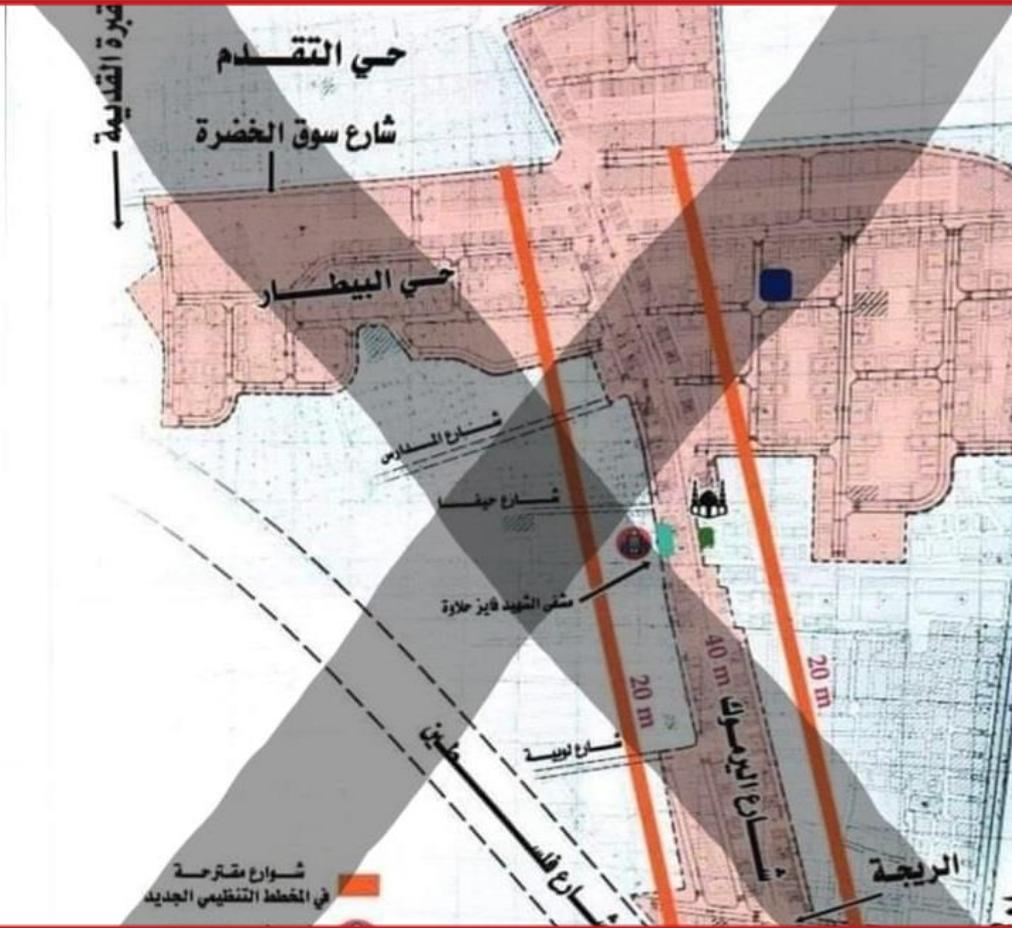
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"10,000 Objections Filed against Yarmouk's New Reconstruction Plan"

- Palestinian Ambassador: Displaced Families Will Return to Yarmouk Camp
- 14 Palestinian Students from Syria Displacement Camp Get High School Diplomas with Honors
- Palestinian Refugee Hani Akleh Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

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Latest developments

Over 10,000 objections have been filed so far against the new reconstruction plan issued by Damascus Governorate to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Lawyers and human rights activists told AGPS that the number of objections is the largest in Syria, saying it reveals the widespread condemnation of the new plan and the family's insistence on the implementation of the old plan issued in 2004.

A recent report issued by AGPS under the title "Yarmouk Camp: What's Behind the New Reconstruction Plan" has spotlighted the projected impact of the new master plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 06, 2020 to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp.

The report warns that the new plan violates the residents' ownership rights and swells up over 50% of old buildings and property owned by civilians. No compensations, except for small shares, are, however, proposed in the plan.

The reconstruction plan will also result in a removal of the camp's demographic character. No more than 40% of the residents will be allowed to return to their homes in mildly damaged areas. Several families will not be able to prove property ownership due to such laws and regulations as Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment. The situation is even more complicated for those who lost their documents in the warfare as well as those currently sheltered abroad.



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Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new reconstruction plan for Yarmouk Camp, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Activists said the new plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

It is believed that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).



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Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

Along similar lines, director of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) political department in Damascus, Anwar Abdul Hadi, said in a video addressing the displaced residents of Yarmouk Camp that the camp will be reconstructed and families will be allowed to retrieve their houses and property.

The statement was released during a visit to AlShuhadaaa Cemetery in Yarmouk Camp on the first day of Eid AlAdhha.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

On February 4, 2019, a petition was handed over by the residents to Damascus governor Adel Anwar AlAlabi, urging local authorities to smooth the return of displaced families to their homes.

The 200-page petition, signed by 3,000 residents of Yarmouk Camp, called on the Syrian authorities to work on facilitating their immediate return to their homes and to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure and facilities.

The residents expressed their readiness to carry out voluntary work and to actively take part in reconstruction works.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to



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Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.

Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

In another development, 14 Palestinian students sheltered in AlNeirab refugee camp, in Aleppo, got their high school diplomas with high scores.

The list includes Lin Mujahed ALTaher (239.5); Fatma Muhammad Zaidan 238; Thaer Ayman Qaddoura (236.5); Alma Aysar Musa (235.8); Hassan Ali Kiwan; (235.7); Alaa Ahmed Mahmoud (234.8); Rahaf Muhammad Hawash (234.6); Amjad Hussein Hanino (234.3); Anas Bakir (234); Saleh Imad Ghannam (233.9);



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Mahmoud Ahmed Hanino (233.4); Ahmed Mostafa Abdel Rahman (232.9); Mahmoud Hossam Saed (231.6); and Farah Hadiri (230).

Palestinian families taking shelter in AlNeirab Camp continue to denounce the dramatic nosedive in their children's access to education.

An AGPS reporter said that increasing school dropouts have been reported among school boys, several of whom left their academic institutions to join armed militias.

At the same time, dozens of Palestinian teaching staff members have been arrested and sent to jail.

AGPS continues to appeal to the Palestine Liberation Organization and UNRWA, among all concerned institutions, to urgently step in and work on reconstructing destroyed schools, providing civilians with the needed psycho-physical protection, and boosting children's access to education in Syria's displacement camps.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Hani Saleh Akleh has been secretly detained in Syrian government prisons for the eighth consecutive year.



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Hani was arrested on October 25, 2012 at AlKaws checkpoint, in AlSayeda Zeinab, in Rif Dimashq.

Hani's condition and whereabouts could not be identified.

He was born in 1976 and sheltered in AlSayeda Zeinab refugee camp.

AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees, including 100 women and girls, in Syria's state-run prisons.