



التقرير اليومي



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



Palestinian Refugees Grappling With Tough Ramadan Conditions in Lebanon

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Slam Services Department, Push for Rehabilitation of Old Committee
- Palestinian Families in Syria's Ataa Camp Launch Distress Signals
- Palestinian Refugee Families Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for Years



Latest Development

This year's Holy Ramadan month has been tougher for Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon as the economic breakdown means that many PRS have not been able to reunite with or provide for their families.

Several displacement camps for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are missing the decorations that used to fill the streets for this occasion.

Lebanon is struggling for the third year in a row with a crippling financial crisis, which has pushed many Palestinian refugees below the poverty line, resulting in an increasing number of beggars on the streets. The crisis has also greatly affected the middle class, whose incomes have declined with the depreciation of the local currency against the dollar, while others have been laid off as hundreds of institutions, factories and shops shut down.

With the rise in unemployment on one hand, and the dollarization of the most basic needs – including the monthly subscription to the electricity generator and fuel – on the other, most Lebanese nationals and Palestinian refugees are barely surviving.

Neighborhoods with more than an hour of electricity supply a day from the government are considered lucky. Fuel prices have risen significantly.

“Holy Ramadan month had been an occasion of unparalleled joy in Yarmouk Camp. All families used to exchange greetings, meals, and gifts. Those memories are just unforgettable”, 70-year-old Abu



Yousef, sheltered in Lebanon's Ein AlHilweh refugee camp told AGPS with a deep sigh.

“This year Ramadan is very different. We can't even make a living. Poverty and unemployment are everywhere. The situation is made worse by UNRWA's decision to cut shelter grants and decrease food allowances for Palestinian refugees from Syria”, another elderly man—Haj abu Mustafa—said.

“This year, Ramadan only reminds me of the Ja'ouna massacre which claimed the lives of dozens of people”, said Yousef, a Palestinian refugee displaced from Yarmouk Camp, as he referred to the onslaughts launched some 10 years ago by the Syrian fighter jets on Abdul Kader AlHusaini Mosque, in Yarmouk camp. At the time of the attack, the mosque served as a shelter for hundreds of families who fled the deadly strikes on the camp. Dozens of civilians, including children and women, were killed in the massacre. The event marked the largest mass exodus from Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

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.

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

In another development, civilians and activists have called on local authorities in Damascus to reactivate the local committee which was



previously tasked with administering civilians' affairs in Yarmouk Camp.

They said the services department assigned by Damascus Governorate has failed to take note of civilians' needs and rehabilitate vital facilities.

Yarmouk's local committee was dissolved by the former Prime Minister Emad Khamis in late 2018.

According to a survey by the UN Training and Research Agency (UNITAR) in March 2019, Yarmouk camp, with an area less than 2.11 sq km, was ranked seventh on the list of the most destroyed areas in Syria.

Previous attempts to include the camp within the organisational scope of what is known as "Greater Damascus Governorate" failed due to the administrative independence granted to the camp by the Syrian Cabinet in 1964, in accordance with which the camp became an independent administrative unit affiliated with the Ministry of Local Administration, managed by the local committee of Yarmouk camp. This was headed by a Palestinian appointed by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, in partnership with the country leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party (Palestinian branch), along with a municipal council composed of figures from the camp.

In order to remove the administrative and legal obstacles that prevented the inclusion of the camp within the plans for the Damascus Governorate, the Cabinet said in November 2018 that the governorate of Damascus must replace the local committee of the



Yarmouk camp, including its rights and duties, and that committee members must be put at the disposal of the governorate. The argument was that the preparation for the camp's reconstruction phase, and the capabilities it needed, were not available to the local committee of Yarmouk camp. Actually, though, the decision was a coup against the 1964 decision in preparation for putting the camp at the disposal of the governorate, under the heavy shadow of Law No. 10, which means removing the camp as a place where planning regulations have been violated and creating a new organisational zone.

Meanwhile, some 73 displaced Palestinian families taking shelter in Ataa camp, in Idlib's northern outskirts, north of Syria, have been enduring a dire humanitarian situation.

The vast majority of refugees have been crammed in poorly-equipped houses of no more than 30 square meters and denied access to vital services.

The camp is home to 400 Palestinian and Syrian families, 30 among whom were displaced from Deraa Camp and 19 from Khan Eshieh Camp. Another six families were displaced from Yarmouk, five from AlSabina, four from Hjeira and AlDhiabiya towns, three from AlHusainiya, three from Khan Dannun, and three families from Rif Dimashq's towns of Daria and AlKiswa.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of coronavirus add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.



In the meantime, members of same families have been secretly held behind Syrian prison bars for years.

The list includes four members of the Palestinian Daoud family: Nour Ahmad Daoud, born in 1987, a resident of AlHajar AlAswad area, and the father of a young girl. He was kidnapped in 2013; Daoud Ahmad Daoud, born in 1986, a resident of AlHajar AlAswad, and the father of two boys and a girl. He was kidnapped at the Batikha checkpoint.

The list also includes the two brothers Mahmoud Mohamed Kheir Daoud, born in 1996, and Ali Mohamed Kheir Daoud, born in 1998. Both are residents of AlHajar AlAswad and were kidnapped in 2014 from AlDweilaa area, in Damascus.

At the same time, five members from the Mouloud family have been forcibly disappeared. They were kidnapped on July 27, 2013 at a government-run checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in AlTadhamun neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.

The family's 73-year-old father, Mouloud Khalid AlAbdullah, had been diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases while the mother, Dheiba, 65, is a diabetic patient. Al Abdullah family members Ilham, 48, Anaam, 33, Yasmeeen, 39, along with the latter's six-year-old kid Obada, have all gone missing so far.

Ten members of the Amayri family have also been secretly incarcerated in Syrian government prisons since June 16, 2013.

Mahira Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1964), Hadeel Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1987), Aseel Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1988), Widad



Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1990), Razan Mahmoud Amayri (born in 2000), Suheer Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1981), Maysaa Jamal Idris (born in 1979), Firas Waleed Dasouki (born in 1978) along with his children Hamza Firas Dasouki (born in 2011) and Hala Firas Dasouki (born in 2012) were all kidnapped by Syria's pro-government squads at a checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in ALTadhamun neighborhood.

Additionally, Palestinian refugee Tawfiq Jebali and his two sons Mohamed Kheir and Wael, previously sheltered in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, have been secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons since October 15, 2012.

In October 2020, AGPS learned that Tawfiq's son Wael had been incarcerated in an isolated cell in the highly-secretive Sednaya military prison.

In 2019, the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) stated in its first report, entitled "Sednaya Prison: Factory of death and enforced disappearance in Syria", that inmates have been tortured to death in the highly-secretive penal complex.

The report monitored the procedures and consequences of detention in Sednaya Prison in Syria, which the Assad regime continues to use as a main centre for the detention and enforced disappearance of political detainees, denying them any contact with the outside world and subjecting them to poor conditions that often lead to death.

The report stated that the Syrian regime itself is unable to issue accurate lists of the numbers of detainees due to the numerous



victims of extrajudicial executions, torture, starvation, deprivation, and medical neglect.

The ADMSP identified 24 types of psychological torture which included mock executions, being forced to watch other inmates being tortured, and threats against prisoners' families.

Sexual abuse has also significantly increased under the Assad regime, with around a third of detainees admitted to have suffered from this form of torture at Sednaya.

Few inmates expect to emerge from Syria's Sednaya prison alive, a place where routine torture and inhumane living conditions are, obviously, all designed to break the hope and dignity of prisoners, according to human rights groups.