



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



### "620 Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Prisons"

- Palestinian Refugee Released after 20 Months in Syrian Jail
- Eye-Witnesses Raise Concerns over Movement Crackdown by Syrian Gov't in Yarmouk Camp
- Anti-Coronavirus Drive Held in AlAyedeen Camp

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## Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of 620 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state run penal complexes since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011.

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided 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 prisoners, 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).



Palestinian women and girls have also been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries.



Such practices breach the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

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, Palestinian refugee Hamza Mohamed AlMesri, a resident of Daraa displacement camp, south of Syria, was released from a Syrian government prison.

Hamza was arrested in August 2018. He broke away from the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian government.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government forces have started the construction of a large gate and a metal canopy at the main entrance to Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees.

Eye-witnesses said the move unveils the Syrian government's intent to set a security barrier in order to control civilians' access out of and into the camp.

Activists said the measure aims to crack down on the movement of Yarmouk residents and blackmail families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military



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operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.



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

In the meantime, paramedics from UNRWA clinic in AlAyedeen displacement camp, in Hums, have paid filed visits to elderly people, persons with disabilities, and patients with chronic diseases to carry out routine medical checks and provide them with the prescribed medicines.

Some 13,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.



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UN data indicates that the camp lies within the town of Hums, 160 km north of Damascus, on an area of 0.15 square kilometers, adjacent to al-Baath University. The camp was established in 1949 following the displacement of Palestinians during the first Arab-Israeli War of 1948-49. Many of the refugees living in the camp are originally from the villages surrounding Haifa, Tiberias and Acre in northern Palestine.

Before the crisis, the camp was home to 22,000 Palestine refugees. The majority of them used to work as laborers, local civil servants and vendors. However, since the start of the conflict in 2011, the original camp population has reduced to 9,000, with many seeking refuge abroad.



The camp has remained relatively calm and stable, despite Hums city being one of the most severely affected cities by the war with several neighborhoods reduced to rubble. This has caused the camp population to increase - thousands of displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees from Hums itself, as well as other areas, have moved to the camp. Demand for UNRWA services has grown due to this influx. There are currently 13,000 Palestine refugees living in the camp, and another 2,000 in surrounding areas.



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Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.