



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Prisoners' Families Blackmailed in Syria"

- Vaccination Campaign Launched in Jaramana Camp
- Psychological-Support Initiative Launched in Favor of Palestinian Women from Syria in Istanbul
- Humanitarian Campaign Launched to Assist Palestinian Refugees in Syria

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Latest Developments

The families of hundreds of Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons have been blackmailed over their appeals for information.

Hundreds of families have paid large sums of money of at least \$2,000 up to \$20,000 to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get information about the condition and whereabouts of their missing relatives.

The families hardly ever receive the required pieces of information and the traffickers never show up again as soon as they are paid.

In a report entitled "Syria: Between Prison and the Grave" and published in 2015, Amnesty International warned that tens of thousands of people in Syria have vanished without a trace. They are the victims of enforced disappearance – when a person is arrested, detained or abducted by a state or agents acting for the state, who then deny the person is being held or conceal their whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law. The disappeared are cut off from the outside world, packed into overcrowded, secret cells where torture is routine, disease is rampant and death is commonplace. Their families are forced to live in desperation with few, if any, safe ways of finding their loved ones.

According to the report, the number of actors seeking to use the system for their own personal gain or advantage has increased. As a result of this opportunism by state security officers, an even



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greater number of individuals have been subjected to enforced disappearance in Syria. Amnesty International's research suggested that those who exploit the system are driven by two primary motivations: first, the pursuit of financial profit, and second, the settling of personal grievances.

In another development, a campaign to vaccinate children aged below five years-old against poliomyelitis has seen the day in Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

In live photos, medics and paramedics appear touring residential alleyways in order to immunize children.

Recently, the Syrian Health Ministry announced the launch of a 10-day national campaign to vaccinate children against poliomyelitis across government-held provinces.

Thousands of Palestinian and Syrian children who have gone displaced from their homes in war-torn Syria, have been left without life-saving vaccination.

A blockade which had been imposed by the Syrian government forces on Yarmouk Camp for years took away the lives of dozens of Palestinian children as a result of medical negligence, medicine dearth, undernourishment, and the spread of fatal diseases.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Association in Solidarity with Palestine "FIDAR" organized, in coordination with the feminist Blue Pen Association, an event aiming to raise psycho-social awareness among Palestinian women from Syria.



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The lecture, delivered at the Esenyurt Centre for Rehabilitation and Training in Istanbul, Turkey, seeks to assist Palestinian refugee women overcome the psychological pressure inflicted by the war, siege and protracted displacement.

FIDAR's Training and Rehabilitation Centre is the first of its kind in the Esenyurt region as it provides free educational and vocational services for Palestinian refugees.

In the meantime, SANED volunteer group operating in a number of European Countries dispatched relief baskets to Palestinian refugee families sheltered in displacement camps across war-torn Syria.

So far, families received 235 relief baskets worth 15 Euros a basket. The campaign seeks to raise funds to secure 2,000 baskets.

Ten years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN 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.