



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

04-04-2019

No. 2343

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Refugees Overburdened with Costly Visa-Renewal Fees"

- Body of Syrian Republican Guard Chopped into Pieces in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees Rally in Aleppo over Trump's Pro-Israel Statements
- Palestinian Brothers Ahmed and Mohamed Mahmoud Hamidi Secretly Jailed in Syria

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## Latest Developments

Thousands of Palestinian from Syria who have fled to other destinations have been unable to shell out the steep fees of visa-renewal processes in the new destinations.

Renewing travel documents costs up to \$300. The applicant is required to pay \$800 if he/she expects to have travel documents renewed in no more than eight days. In most cases, applicants receive a two-year renewal.

Palestinian refugees also face difficulties trying to get in touch with Syrian consulates and embassies due to overcrowding. The situation is often made far more complicated by the so-called “brokers of appointments” who have close ties with staff members at the consulate or the embassy. A meeting is sold by such parties at \$300.



In order for Palestinians from Syria to obtain visas in new destinations, a valid travel document should be acquired to that end.



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In another development, activists said the body of a member of Syria's Republican Guards – Fourth Division was spotted in Yarmouk Camp a few days earlier while cut into pieces.

According to the activists, the casualty recently joined the Forth Division following agreement's made with the Syrian government, after the latter regained control of Yarmouk and southern Damascus last year.

No clear reasons have yet been provided for the killing and mutilation of the officer's body.

Meanwhile, dozens of Palestinian refugees sheltered in Handarat Camp in Aleppo took to the street on Tuesday, in response to the US President Donald Trump's recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights.



Over 175 families returned to Handarat Camp, where more than 90% of civilian homes and facilities sustained severe damage or were totally destroyed. The price leap and high rates of unemployment have made the situation far more unbearable in the camp.



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A couple of weeks ago, US President Donald Trump overturned longstanding US policy regarding the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, announcing "it is time" for the US to "fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty" over the region.

"After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability," Trump tweeted.

The announcement hands Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a significant foreign policy victory, less than three weeks before Israelis head to the polls to decide whether he should remain in power. The move comes just days before Netanyahu is set to join Trump at the White House and follows weeks during which Netanyahu has renewed his push for the US to recognize the Golan Heights as part of Israel.

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six-Day War of 1967 and formally annexed the territory in 1981. But that annexation has not been recognized by the international community, which has regarded the Golan Heights as occupied territory and Israeli settlements there as illegal under international law. The UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, recently reiterated that position.

"The Security Council is very clear that the Golan is Syrian territory, and the first aspect of (Resolution) 2254 is of course the territorial integrity of Syria," he said in a news briefing in late February.



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In the meantime, Palestinian brothers Ahmed Mahmoud Hamidi, born in 1992, and Mohamed Mahmoud Hamidi, born in 1983, have been held in Syrian state jails since 2014.

The Palestinian brothers are both residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus. Ahmad was kidnapped by pro-government militias from Shabaa village, near AlSayeda Zeinab. Ahmad is physically disabled and suffers concussion and temporary memory loss. His brother Mahmoud was kidnapped on his way out of Yarmouk Camp, accompanied by his family.

AGPS documented the detention of 1,737 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state dungeons, among them 107 women and dozens of minors.

