



## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### 4 Palestinians Released from Syrian Prisons

- AGPS Provides Free Access to Palestinian Prisoners Names in Syria
- Palestinian Refugees in Northern Syria Displacement Camps Mark Holy Eid
- Charity Distributes Cash Grants for Children in Northern Syria



## Latest Development

Four Palestinian refugees were freed from Syria's state-run prisons over recent days following an Amnesty by president Bashar Al-Assad.

Three of the newly-released Palestinians are residents of Khan Eshieh Camp. They are: Mohamed Rashdan, Yousef Nahar, and Ashraf Mahmoud. They were arrested over the past four years. Mazen AlSukari, a resident of Arabein, was arrested in 2012.

Over recent days, prisoners families, including Palestinian refugees, assembled in the "President's Bridge" area, awaiting the arrival of buses carrying people who have been held for years in Syria's infamous prisons, many for participating in the 2011 protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

Other families gathered since Monday in Sednaya, north of Damascus, which is home to Sednaya, Syria's largest and most notorious military prison.

Palestinian refugee families expressed fear that their relatives would not be included in the amnesty, saying they have suspicions as to how sincere the Syrian regime could be.

On Saturday, Assad issued a decree giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022. The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.



Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad's government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

The Prisoners' Council said the regime claimed 2,500 people would be included in the amnesty. However, no more than 40 people have been released so far.

Nizar Sedkni, deputy justice minister, said the amnesty included those convicted of various crimes, including being involved in or financing a "terror group", a term often used for opposition groups.

Justice Minister Ahmed el-Sayed described the amnesty as a comprehensive national reconciliation, telling the state-operated al-Watan newspaper that it was contributing to the return of thousands of refugees.

The releases come after the Guardian revealed last week that in 2013 military security agents executed about 42 people by pushing them into a hole, shooting them and then burning them.

Thousands of Syrians were discovered killed under torture when a defector leaked nearly 50,000 photographs in 2014, showing the bodies of some 7,000 detainees mutilated by torture.

Over 1,700 Palestinian refugees are believed to be languishing in Syria's prisons, many of them have spent nearly a decade in prison while scores of others died under torture behind prison bars.

Along similar lines, AGPS has launched an online portal providing free access to data and statistics about Palestinian prisoners forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.



This comes following hundreds of emails and appeals by prisoners' families seeking to identify their relatives' conditions and whereabouts after they have been unaccounted for for years.

AGPS calls on Palestinian refugee families in Syria to register the names of their missing relatives on its official website.

On Thursday, the Guardian published a footage showing a massacre taking place in Tadamon, near Syria's capital Damascus, in April 2013, and claiming the lives of 41 people, including three Palestinian refugees.

The three refugees are Wasim Omar Seyam, Sa'id Ahmad Khatab, Abd Luay AlKubra, residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus. The piece published by the Guardian was called "Massacre in Tadamon: how two academics hunted down a Syrian war criminal," and written by Middle East correspondent Martin Chulov.

The British newspaper reported that the mass grave contained at least 41 bodies following the massacre. The bodies were then doused with fuel and set alight. In the video footage, soldiers could be heard laughing. The massacre took place just a few miles from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power.

Meanwhile, as the holy Eid AlFitr (Fast-breaking festival) has been celebrated by Muslims across the globe, Palestinian refugees in northern Syria have been deprived of the joy ordinarily sparked by such an occasion.



In a place where neither vital facilities nor leisure amenities are made available, the advent of Eid meant that dozens of displaced Palestinian and Syrian families spend the occasion in their poorly-equipped tents.

“The war took away our families and friends from us” Malek, a Palestinian refugee displaced from Rif Dimashq, told AGPS. “Now we’re sharing our pain and joy with our new friends and neighbors in the displacement camp”.

Another refugee: “Eid comes in the midst of a darkness and sorrow sparked by displacement, despair, and economic hardship”.

Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped tents and denied access to vital facilities and services.

Along similar lines, the Palestine Commission for Relief and Development embarked on a humanitarian drive in displacement camps in Atama, in the northern Syrian province of Idlib.

Campaigners distributed small sums of money to children to help them buy toys and sweets during the holy occasion of Eid Al-Fitr.

After more than ten years of conflict, Palestine refugee children continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.