



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



"AGPS & PRC Underscore Calamitous Situation of Palestinian Women in Syria at UNHRC"

- Kurdistan Authorities Allow Palestinian Family from Syria to Enter Erbil
- Efforts Ongoing in Daraa Camp for Palestinian Refugee to Repair Power Network
- Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Enduring Dire Conditions
- Palestinian Refugee Salim AlMaw'ed Secretly Jailed in Syria for 6th Year

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Latest Developments

The Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) and the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) have spoken up against the human rights abuses perpetrated against Palestinian women taking refuge in war-torn Syria.

Speaking during a session attended by the International Commission of Inquiry on the Syria Arab Republic, held on Tuesday, July 2, as part of the 41st Session of the United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, PRC's media chief Ahmad Husain, also AGPS' executive director, warned of the flagrant psycho-physical violations Palestinian women have been made to endure across the Syrian territories.



Mr. Husain said nearly 500 Palestinian women have died of war-related incidents in the war-torn country, according to updated statistics by AGPS. At the same time, 109 Palestinian women and girls have gone forcibly disappeared in Syria's state-run prisons, where dozens of others have also been tortured to death.

At least 68 female Palestinian refugees died of undernourishment and medical negligence in the embattled Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, Mr. Husain further warned.



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PRC's speaker said there are currently hundreds of Palestinian women struggling for survival in northern Syria. Their children have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents. Scores of elderly women are on the verge of death, awaiting life-saving medicines that many believe will never come if urgent steps are not taken.

MR. Husain called for serious steps to save women before it is too late, saying all concerned authorities should combine forces in order to pressurize the Syrian authorities to disclose the fate of forcibly-disappeared women, push for fair trials of those held behind prison bars, and ensure that women are granted the psycho-physical protection they quite urgently need, as stipulated by the international humanitarian law.

In another development, authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq lifted a ban on the family of Palestinian refugee Fadi Khaled Nasrullah to enter Erbil city, after they were caught by the Turkish authorities on June 27, 2019, and detained for one day. They were later pushed back to Erbil, where authorities threatened to forcibly deport them to Lebanon, pending their transfer to Syria.



Sometime earlier, the family landed at the Khartoum Airport, where they were ordered to shell out 2,000\$ so as to be allowed to stay in



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the country. They were deported to the Cairo International Airport soon after, as they failed to pay the required sum. Two days later, they obtained a visa to enter Erbil.

In appeals emailed to AGPS nearly a couple of weeks ago, the family called on the concerned human rights bodies, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Palestinian factions to take urgent steps in order to pressurize the Kurdistan authorities to backtrack on the refoulement decision. The wife said that the family has lost all of its belongings and property in the Syrian warfare and that any attempt to force them back to Syria will make their situation far worse.

Meanwhile, the Power Company in Daraa Camp has embarked on repair works to rehabilitate the electricity network which was severely damaged in the warfare.

Over recent years, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Daraa Camp kept appealing to the concerned authorities to repair power lines in the area, reconstruct destroyed facilities, and rehabilitate vital services.





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Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees has been grappling with abject conditions as a result of the fallouts wrought by the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. 80% of civilian homes and property were destroyed.

Soon after the Syrian government recaptured the camp, civilians appealed to the Palestinian Authority, Palestine Liberation Organization, and UNRWA to urgently step in and work on securing life-saving medicines and foodstuff urgently needed in the area.

Along the same line, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon continue to sound alarm bells over their ambivalent legal status and the inhospitality shown by local authorities.

Palestinian refugees from Syria are reported to lack legal status in Lebanon. The absence of a specific legislation addressing the unique situation of the Palestinians of Syria has made them vulnerable to marginalization within the Lebanese polity.

The price leap, steep rental fees, expensive education charges, and lack of access to the local labor market, along with the absence of relief aids, have made life unbearable for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought refuge in Lebanon, where they have been enduring exacerbated living conditions and subjected to a precarious legal status.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Salim Mohamed AlMaw'ed has been locked up in a Syrian government dungeon for the sixth consecutive year.

Salim was arrested at the Yarmouk Camp checkpoint on May 22, 2013. His family continues to appeal for information.

AGPS documented the incarceration of 1,758 Palestinians in Syrian government prisons, where 606 others were tortured to death.