



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



"School Dropouts on the Rise among Palestinians in Syria Displacement Camp"

- Palestinian Child Missing from Jaramana Camp for 2nd Week
- Syrian Regime Threatens Property-Confiscation against Military Draft Evaders
- Palestinian Refugees in Egypt Denounce Mistreatment by UNRWA Officials
- Palestinian Refugee Jamal AlMesri Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for 8th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Jaramana Camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, continue to speak out against the sharp nosedive in access to education for Palestinian children sheltered in the area.

Extreme poverty, child labor, early marriage, and enforced disappearance are among the factors that have led to an increase in school dropouts among the camp residents.

Palestinian refugee families have frequently denounced the inadequate educational services and poor-quality input delivered children at local schools.

Local schools face overcrowding, with over 50 students often crammed in a single classroom.

Schoolchildren have also been subjected to bullying and psycho-physical violence by a number of teaching staff.

Academic installations in the camp include four double-shift schools.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.



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Several UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria. Other education facilities have been turned into prisons or field hospitals, imperiling Palestinians' academic careers.

In another development, Palestinian child Abdul Rahman Nidhal Ahmed, raised in Jaramana camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, has gone missing for nearly 15 days.

Abdul Rahman disappeared near AlAbasseen area as he accompanied his mother to her workplace. He had lost his father in the Syrian conflict.

332 Palestinian refugees from Syria, including 37 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare, AGPS has found out. Most of those who have disappeared in the country are residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Meanwhile, the Syrian regime announced its intent to seize the property of military dodgers, in reference to people eluding government-imposed obligation to serve in the military forces.

Brigadier-General Ilyas Beitar said draft evaders aged 42 and above will have their property and money confiscated. An exception will be made to those who paid 8,000 USD as a fine.



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Activists said the new decision is more dangerous than Law 10 which gives expatriates 30 days to prove property ownership.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.

A number of refugees said UNRWA continues to turn its back on their calls for cash and in-kind assistance and denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by UNRWA director, urging her to step down.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt continue to call on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aid, amid the economic hardship inflicted by COVID-19 outbreak in the Sissi-led country.



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The refugees have slammed UNRWA for dragging its feet over their calls for help on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria).

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a volatile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aid, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Jamal Faysal AlMesri has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the 8th consecutive year.

Jamal, born in 1994, was arrested at a checkpoint in AlSabina, south of Syria. His condition and whereabouts could not be identified.



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AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees 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 detainees, 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).

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.

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.