



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

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Mother of Forcibly Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria Launches Cry for Help"

- Child Abduction Attempt Reported in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Civilians Raise Concerns over Unexploded Ordnance in Yarmouk Camp
- Kindergarten to Be Rehabilitated in Yarmouk Camp
- UNRWA Delegation Inspects Vital Premises in Syria

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## Latest Developments

The mother of the Palestinian refugee Nassim Ziad Abu Dheis appealed, in a letter handed over to AGPS, to the international human rights institutions, namely Amnesty International, to take urgent action so as to unearth the fate of her son, who has been forcibly disappeared in Syria for the eighth consecutive year.

Abu Dheis's mother said her 43-year-old son, a resident of AlSeif neighborhood, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, was kidnapped on his way from Deir al-Zor to Damascus province.

The mother added that her health condition and psychological well-being have taken a turn for the worse due to her son's absence.

She raised concerns over her son's fate, saying that another son of hers had been tortured to death in Syrian lock-ups.

AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

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



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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).

Along similar lines, three anonymous persons attempted to kidnap a child called Mohamed AlMesri from Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

The assailants dragged the boy to their car before he jumped out. He was transferred to a hospital to be treated for the bruises he sustained while he was attempting to run away.

Mohamed was kidnapped as he walked out of the bus which he boarded on way back home from his school in AlZahira.

In another development, landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which are particularly unpredictable and difficult to detect, continue to put millions of people, including Palestine refugees, at risk in Syria.

Civilians in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to sound distress signals over the threats posed by unexploded ordnance.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has frequently warned that



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some groups are at higher risk from explosive ordnance due to age, gender, social roles and activity patterns: children who will pick up dangerous items, farm workers who dig up the land, population groups on the move like IDPs, who may enter areas without knowledge of local threats.

In Syria, approximately 1 in 2 people are at risk from explosive contamination and 1/3 of the communities are potentially contaminated. Contamination severely impacts lives, livelihoods and amplifies the social and economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

People displaced or returning home are at high risk as they have limited information on safety issues in the areas they are going to.

This threat is particularly high for Palestine refugees in Syria, especially in newly-accessible or difficult-to-reach areas. These include areas that Palestine refugees have recently returned to areas such as Yarmouk, Ein el Tal and Dera'a camp.

Children on their way to and from school are highly exposed to the dangers of explosive ordnance. Tragically, just last month, a 10-year-old Palestine refugee boy in Syria was severely injured by a mine explosion and lost one of his legs.

Palestine refugees living in Syria are not the only Palestine refugees at risk from unexploded ordnance. In the Gaza Strip, unexploded ordnance from the 2014 Israeli offensive continues to pose a direct threat, including to UNRWA students.



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Meanwhile, volunteers in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, have joined efforts to rehabilitate the Return Kindergarten, west of the camp, pending a permit by the Syrian authorities to reopen the facility.

Mounds of debris continue to be spotted everywhere across the ravaged Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, blocking civilians' access to their homes and property.

Some three years ago, precisely on April 19, 2018, Syrian regime forces and their Russian allies showered the camp with missiles and mortars, resulting in dozens of deaths among Palestinian refugees and hundreds of injuries.

Over 60% of buildings and facilities in Yarmouk Camp have been reduced to rubble and civilian homes razed to the ground.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk's families have lived on sporadic aid handed over to them by UNRWA.

Civilians continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to speed up reconstruction works and rehabilitate infrastructure and vital facilities, including water and power networks.





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In the meantime, a UNRWA delegation toured its installations in Syria.

Head of UNRWA's Staff updated the administration on underway efforts to boost the Agency's services for Palestine refugees.

The delegation also paid a visit to a UNRWA food distribution center and a vocational training center in Damascus, where they took note of the students' experiences and aspirations.

UNRWA has been active in Syria since it started its field operations in 1950. Since the start of the conflict in 2011, UNRWA has stepped up its operations to ensure the needs of Palestine refugees in the country are met. The Agency is the main provider of humanitarian assistance, protection and basic services to 438,000 Palestine refugees who remain in the country, and who have been among those worst affected by the crisis.