



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Palestinian Refugee Students in Syria Displacement Camps Denounce Impact of Electricity Blackout

- **Power Cables Stolen from Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp**
- **Palestinian Pronounced Dead at Damascus Hospital**
- **498 Palestinian Refugee Woman, Girls Pronounced Dead in War-Torn Syria**



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee students and schoolchildren sheltered in government-held zones in Syria have been unable to revise for exams as frequent power cuts continue to occur due to damaged infrastructure.

Students and schoolchildren revise for exams on candle light.

More than twelve years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond; Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Along similar lines, power cables have been stolen from abandoned houses and alleyways in Khan Eshieh refugee camp, where civilians' life has already been marred by the chronic power blackout.

Sources inside the camp said the cables were most probably stolen by drug addicts. Others attributed the phenomenon to the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by several families in the camp.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields



surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian refugee was pronounced dead at a Damascus hospital, south of Syria.

AGPS calls on Abdullah Mohamed Taleb's relatives to identify him and work on retrieving his body from the hospital.

Abdullah was born in 1952 in Gaza. His body is held at AlMujtahed Hospital, in Damascus.

In the meantime, at least 498 Palestinian women and girls have been pronounced dead since the outbreak of the deadly conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The causes of death include shelling, the blockade, medical neglect, and torture in prison.

Over 40 women have also gone missing in the war-ravaged country.

At the same time, AGPS documented the secret detention of more than 110 Palestinian women and girls in Syria's government prisons.

AGPS believes the numbers to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.



Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.