



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



"Palestinian Refugee Women Struggle with Multiple Hardships in Syria"

- Violence, School Dropouts Reported in AlNeirab Camp
- Residents of AlHusainiya Denounce Poor Sewerage with Advent of Winter
- Displaced Palestinian Families Facing Dire Conditions in Southern Damascus
- Healthcare Initiative Concluded in AlSabina Camp

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Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian women and the enforced disappearance of several others in the embattled Syrian territories.

AGPS data indicates that as many as 487 Palestinian women and girls have died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict.

Palestinian refugee women who died all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict make up 16% of the overall death toll.

At the same time, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 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.



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Several women have also gone homeless or widowed after they lost their husbands and/or children in the war or due to torture.

Thousands of other women have been displaced from such refugee camps as Yarmouk and Khan Eshieh to northern Syria, where they have been struggling for survival in the impoverished refugee tents.

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.

In another development, reports of violence and school-drop outs have increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Several boys have left the Akkah boys-only school, run by UNRWA, due to long shifts, in an area where children's intellectual output has been severely affected by the traumatic upshots of the war.

Classes at Akkah and Yaffa schools last for at least 50 minutes each, up from 35 minutes in the past. The decision has been imposed by UNRWA's education chief in Syria Mohamed Walid Rafe'. The teaching staff continue to speak out against the decision.

Meanwhile, civilians taking shelter in Syria's AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have voiced deep concern over the health hazards inflicted by the trash mounds piled up



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across residential alleyways and the standing wastewater flooding the main access roads.

The residents said wastewater has resulted in bed smells and the spread of life-threatening infections and stray dogs. Children continue to face difficulties trying to reach their schools. Scores of children sustained bruises while other caught skin diseases.

Photos circulated on social media network Facebook show standing wastewater swamping the camp from all corners.

Civilians have appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate action in order to clear garbage and remove standing wastewater.

All the way through the ten-year Syrian conflict, Palestinians taking refuge in AlHusainiya camp have been grappling with dire conditions. High unemployment rates and the absence of relief assistance by UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions have made survival quite difficult in the area.

In the meantime, over 5,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus have been grappling with dire conditions due to the price leap, steep rental fees, and forced military conscription with pro-government forces.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus are also living in distress due to the arbitrary arrest sweeps and crackdowns perpetuated by the Syrian security forces.



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Palestinian refugees have been subjected to movement crackdowns and denied free access out of and into southern Damascus towns.

In another development, the Quds Charity has finalized its healthcare initiative to provide medical diagnoses and medicines for Palestinian refugees in and around AlSabina, including its refugee camp.

The three-day campaign has been supervised by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR). 688 residents of AlSabina Camp benefited from the move.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.



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During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.