



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



### "487 Female Palestinian Refugees Die of War-Related Incidents in Syria"

- Over 90% of Palestinian Refugees in Syria Live in Poverty
- UNRWA to Transfer Aid to Palestinians of Syria
- CSOs Speak Up for Palestinians of Syria
- Cash Aid Distributed to Vulnerable Palestinian Families in Ankara

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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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 until February 07, 2021.

Statistics released by AGPS on the occasion of the International Women's Day reveal that Palestinian refugee women who died all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict make up 16% of the overall death toll.

The list includes 243 female refugees who died under shelling; 68 who died as a result of the blockade and medical neglect in Yarmouk camp; and 28 others who were fatally shot by snipers.

37 female refugees were, meanwhile, killed in blasts; 26 were gunned down; 26 drowned at sea; five female refugees were executed; 34 were tortured to death in Syrian prisons; and 20 others died of other causes, including murder, assassination, suicide, suffocation, health setbacks, and Israeli bullet fire.

As for the geographical distribution of the victims, Damascus topped the list with 163 female refugees, followed by Rif Dimashq, with 152 casualties. 66 others died in Daraa and another 20 women were pronounced dead in Aleppo.



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Included on the list are also eight Palestinian women who died in Hums, one woman in Hama, and another in AlRaml refugee camp in Latakia.

At the same time, AGPS 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.

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.



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Along similar lines, poverty rates have reached a zenith in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and the refugees' lack of access to the local labor market.

In its “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria.

UNRWA said in its fact-sheet that in Syria, the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.



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Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said that the first batch of the 2021 cash grants will be distributed to Palestinian refugees in Syria in cooperation with the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) as of March 10.

UNRWA said emergency cash aid covering three months will be transferred to the concerned refugees.

Every family member registered on the list of normal cases will receive a sum of 34,000 Syrian Pounds. Refugees figuring on the list of vulnerable cases will receive 52,000 SP.

In another development, representatives of the Popular Committees of Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon paid a visit on March 4 to Palestinian activist Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hadi in his Beirut office to brief him on the dire condition faced by Palestinians of Syria.

The delegation sounded the alarm over the increasing poverty and hardship endured by the Palestinians of Syria in refugee camps across the Lebanese territories.

They further underscored the frail legal status of the Palestinian of Syria.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term



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displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, said UNRWA in a fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”.

According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.

Nearly 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) live in poverty.

UNRWA’s factsheet indicates that 257,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are in need of UNRWA emergency cash assistance.

At the same time, there are 104,409 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 1,156 deaths, among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as of December 2020.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country’s 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.



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In the meantime, FIDAR Association, in partnership with Marhama charity, distributed cash aid to 50 Palestinian families from Syria in Ankara.

Unofficial data indicates that 22,000 Palestinian refugees have sought shelter in Turkey, including 8,000 to 10,000 Palestinians who fled war-ravaged Syria.