



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 Palestinian Women Killed, Dozens Forcibly Disappeared in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Prevented from UNRWA Services in Turkey
- Palestinian Refugees Slam Double Standards of Jordan Asylum Seeking Policy
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Denounce Price Leap

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Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of 487 Palestinian women and girls all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, according to death toll data for the period from March 2011 until March 8, 2022.

AGPS figures indicate that 243 female refugees died under shelling; 68 died as a result of the blockade and medical neglect in Yarmouk Camp; and 28 others were fatally shot by snipers.

37 female refugees were, meanwhile, killed in blasts; 24 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 reasons, including murder, assassination, suicide, suffocation, health setbacks, and Israeli bullet fire.

Damascus topped the list with 163 persons, followed by Dimashq (152), Aleppo (20), and Deraa (66).

AGPS also 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



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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.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees in Turkey are denied access to relief services by UNRWA on claims that they fall outside of the Agency's fields of operations.

Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria, are unable to access vital services as legal aid and protection in cases of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The dire socio-economic situation has increased their vulnerability.

Turkey, while party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, maintains the geographical limitation only to people originating from Europe. Despite this limitation, it provides non-European refugees with protection and temporary asylum, pending UNHCR's search for durable solutions elsewhere.



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Displaced Palestine refugees in/from Syria are increasingly exposed to protection threats including from ongoing fighting and other brutal consequences of the conflict. Palestine refugees are leaving Syria by unsafe routes to Turkey and often risk their lives by placing themselves at the mercy of sea traffickers in an attempt to reach Europe. Their protection needs are exacerbated in Syria's neighbouring countries. The uncertainty about their legal status bears a series of consequences in education, health, access to various services and freedom of movement, among others.

Over 120,000 PRS have fled Syria and are facing new vulnerabilities in the receiving countries, with many living in constant fear of arrest and deportation back to Syria. Tight restrictions on the entry of PRS to neighbouring countries have pushed thousands to risk their lives by seeking protection beyond the region.

UNRWA and UNHCR should live up to their direct and operational role advising the Turkish Government on the protection of individual asylum seekers and work with the Turkish authorities to ensure that asylum seekers reach safety, are not detained, subject to refoulement and have access to the procedures for temporary asylum.

Along similar lines, watching European and non-European nations open their arms to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in less than a week, Palestinian refugees can't help but lament their fate as they are still in tents and substandard facilities facing death amid an international community's silence.



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Recently, Jordan has greenlihgted the entry of Asylum seekers from war-ravaged Ukraine without having to obtain visas

Over 18,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan can be categorized as vulnerable due to their precarious legal status and deteriorating humanitarian condition.

The majority of the Palestinians from Syria entered Jordan through irregular routes as a result of the Jordanian closed-door immigration policy barring the refugees' legal entry.

The refugees' vulnerable legal status has reduced their access to the job market and increased the risk of refoulement.

Several Palestinians who fled Syria for fear of being killed under shelling and the blockade have been shorn of their right to legal stays, health care, and access to education, among other services.

The swift price hike, steep rental fees, and daily crackdowns, along with the apathy maintained by international as regards the crisis and UNRWA cuts of its basic services, have added insult to the injury.

Since early 2012, Jordan has opted for a closed-door immigration policy and tightened grip on Palestinian refugees from Syria attempting to enter the country.

Sometime earlier, the Jordanian Prime Minister said his government shall not allow refugees from Syria to freely enter the country and turn Jordan into an “alternative home” for the displaced Palestinians.



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In an earlier report, the New York-based group Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Jordan is turning away Palestinian refugees from Syria in violation of international law.

According to the report, Jordan forcibly repatriated more than 100 asylum seekers, including women and children, since mid-2012.

The 44-page HRW report, entitled "Not Welcome: Jordan's Treatment of Palestinians Escaping Syria," documented Jordan's deportation of seven Palestinian men who were separated from their families, and evidence of the transfer of four others to Cyber City, a closed holding facility for Palestinian and Syrian refugees in northern Jordan.

It also described how Jordan withdrew citizenship from Palestinians who had lived in Syria for years and who had been detained or deported without identity documents.

In the meantime, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been causing knock-on effects globally. The situation of Palestinian refugees, particularly those sheltered in war-torn Syria, has been greatly impacted.

Syria has been engulfed by a devastating war since 2011. The conflict has since brought misery and death to Palestinian refugees sheltered in the country. (File photo)

Prices of food and non-food items have skyrocketed and the exchange rate of the Syrian pound has further deteriorated (1USD/3,900 SP, up from 3,500).



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One liter of oil has reached up to 10,000 SP while a kilogram of rice is sold at 7,000. The cost of one kilogram of ghee is estimated at 13,000 SP.

Eleven 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;

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in the country – 91 per cent of whom live in absolute poverty - and who have been among those worst affected by the conflict.

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.