



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



**"Abduction Ordeal of 6-year-Old Fawaz Qetaifan, Death of Moroccan Child in Well Reminders of Tragedy of Palestinian Children in War-Torn Syria"**

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Push for Urgent Reconstruction to Curtail Property-Theft
- UNRWA: Healthcare Services for Palestinians of Syria Continue Thanks to Donors Like Qatar
- Residents of Latakia's Refugee Camp Struggle to Earn Living

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in/from Syria and in the diaspora have expressed deep grief over the death of five-year-old boy Rayan Oram, who fell down a well in Morocco, and the abduction of Fawaz Qetaifan, a six-year-old Syrian boy who was kidnapped on his way to school in Deraa three months ago.

Rayan was trapped in the hole for several days as rescue crews attempted to dig deep into difficult terrain. The incident prompted large-scale but ultimately unsuccessful rescue efforts.

Messages of support, concern and grief for the boy and his family poured in from around the world, including from Palestinian refugees camps across the Syrian territories, as the news of Rayan's death spread late on Saturday.

The abduction of Fawaz Qetaifan, a six-year-old Syrian boy who was kidnapped on his way to school in Deraa three months ago, also captured refugees' attention in recent days after graphic video footage surfaced on social media showing the boy, stripped to his underwear, being savagely beaten by his kidnappers.

In the shocking images, the boy can be heard crying: "For Allah's sake stop hitting me."

His cries for mercy touched a nerve with Palestinian refugees in Syria and beyond. Several such abductions have ended in tragedy in the war-torn country.



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“Even if Fawaz is returned safely to his family, the payment of the ransom and the failure of the Syrian authorities to track down the kidnapers means many more children, including Palestinian refugees, could be at risk of similar ordeals”, a refugee told AGPS.

Even in a war-torn country so inured to cruelty and lawlessness in recent years, scenes of a young child begging for his life as his adult captors ruthlessly beat him have stirred a collective pushback against the country’s seemingly never-ending social decay.

Syria has become one of the most lawless places on earth. Extortion, kidnapping, blood feuds and revenge killings are rampant — and often occur with impunity.

AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria from the start of the conflict, in 2011, until February 07, 2022.

Sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their moms’ arms in Syrian prisons and whose fates have remained shrouded in mystery.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.



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AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.

In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp continue to call upon the concerned authorities and wealthy expatriates to help them reconstruct their homes and commercial facilities in order to curb property-theft in the area.

Recently, water pipes, wooden and marble door frames, ceramics, and covers for sewage pits made up of font and aluminum have been stolen.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the





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displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said that thanks to contributions from donor parties like the Qatari Fund for Development, the Agency continues to provide primary healthcare services to Palestinian refugees across its health facilities in Syria. UNRWA services are a lifeline to one of the region's most vulnerable refugee communities.

Conflict in Syria over the past decade has caused immense challenges for Palestine refugees, including deaths and injuries, continued internal displacement, large-scale migration to other countries, loss of livelihoods, and mounting humanitarian needs for basic survival. It has been a huge challenge for UNRWA which is having to respond to these needs of the Palestine refugees, with its reducing funding resources. The Agency has also had significant destruction of its installations, including health centres and schools.



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Along similar lines, residents of AlRaml Camp in Latakia continue to sound distress signals over the dire conditions they have been made to endure in the area owing to the poor infrastructure, absence of vital services, and price leap.

Due to forced military conscription with pro-regime militias in Syria, several youths have risked their lives on illegal migration routes to Turkey, seeking to reach European destinations.

The residents said their life has been marred by the transportation crisis, frequent power/water outages, and the poor healthcare services.

Civilians urged UNRWA to assume its responsibility in this regard and slammed the Syrian government for its apathy regarding their cries for help.

Recently, concerns have mounted over a striking increase in coronavirus cases in and around the Palestinian refugee camp, where the number of confirmed infections has already soared.

Medics sounded distress signals over the acute shortage in staff and equipment along with fuel needed to operate power generators at hospitals. The number of infections is estimated to get at least three times higher.