



التقرير اليومي



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



Drug Abuse Increasing in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria

- Hindarat Camp for Palestinian Refugees Gripped with Dire Humanitarian Condition
- Residents of Al Ramadan Refugee Camp Facing Abject Conditions
- Palestinian Refugee Mustafa Ayoub Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime



Latest Development

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in displacement camps for Palestinian refugees across war-torn Syria.

Over recent years, members of pro-regime militias have been accused of running networks for drug trafficking and prostitution in Palestinian refugee camps.

A number of civilians who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity said groups affiliated with Syrian president Bashar Al Asad have been transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to displacement camps, including in Al Husainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

Scores of militiamen who were forced into military conscription with regime battalions consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.



Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees sheltered in Hindarat Camp, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, have accused UNRWA and the other concerned relief institutions of dragging their feet over their appeals for urgent cash and in-kind assistance, saying they have been denied access to vital services and humanitarian aid.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in the area due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.



Along similar lines, Residents of AlRamadan Camp for Palestinian refugees, southeast of Syria, continue to launch cries for help over the socio-economic crises they have been enduring as a result of poverty, unemployment, the acute dearth in vital items, including fuel, and the swift price leap.

The residents continue to appeal to all concerned authorities, particularly UNRWA, to take urgent action in response to the dire humanitarian situation they have been struggling with.

Founded in the 1950s following efforts made by UNRWA to that end, AlRamdan Camp for Palestinian refugees is located some 50 kilometers away from southeastern Damascus. The nearest city to the camp—AlDameer city—is located at a distance of nine kilometers.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mustafa Ali Ayoub, born on August 11, 1996, has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the 10th consecutive year.

Mustafa was kidnapped by Syrian security forces at the age of 16 from his family home in ALTadhamun neighborhood on October 05, 2012 over allegations of taking part in anti-government protests.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of nearly 2,000 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, among them 110 women and girls.