



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

10-03-2020

No. 2695

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "617 Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Jails"

- Displaced Families Call for Urgent Return to Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Wins Oslo Mechanical Automotive Competition
- Palestinian Refugees Distressed as Greece Announces Construction of 2 Migrant Camps

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## Victims

Palestinian refugee Fadi Husain Amoura died under torture in a Syrian prison. His family was recently updated on his death. He was a resident of Yarmouk refugee camp, in Damascus.

Fadi's death brings the toll of victims of torture among Palestinian refugees in Syria to 617.

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian prisoners, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).





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AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

### **Latest Developments**

Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk camp have urged local authorities in Damascus to backtrack on the new organizational plan which they said gives the Syrian government a greenlight to take hold of all buildings in the camp.

Families who lost their documents in the warfare expressed their fears over the government's projected denial of their right to compensation.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

On January 07, 2020, Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen AlSaman, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, called on Palestinian refugees to file lawsuits in order to return to their homes and retrieve their properties in Yarmouk.

AlSaman's calls came in response to the reluctance maintained by local authorities in Damascus regarding the residents' ongoing appeals to rehabilitate infrastructure and allow displaced civilians to safely return to the camp.



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The lawyer said concerned authorities have been dragging their feet despite the presidential decision green-lighting the safe return of Yarmouk residents to their abandoned homes.

He warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.



Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.





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Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee from Syria Karim Zamzam won the first place in the "oslomesterskap" competition for mechanical engineering students in the Norwegian capital city Oslo, beating 30 students taking part in the competition at Kuben Vgs School.

Karim, a former resident of Yarmouk camp, fled war-torn Syria to Norway in the lookout for better opportunities. Sometime earlier, he had won a contest held in Oslo and received 550 USD.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian refugees have achieved success stories in Europe, challenging the traumatic upshots wrought by daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

In another development, Greece said it plans to build two new temporary camps to house hundreds of additional asylum seekers who arrived after a surge enabled by Turkey.

"We want to build two closed centers in (the northern region of) Serres and the greater Athens area with 1,000 places," Greek migration minister Notis Mitarachi told Skai TV on Saturday.



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"We need the backing of local communities. We cannot leave all (these) people on the islands," he said.

Mitarachi said the camps would host asylum seekers who arrived after March 1, when Turkey announced it would no longer prevent people from trying to cross into the European Union.

Mitarachi also said state support for refugees would be limited, and that they would be asked to leave camps after securing protected status.

"Accommodation and benefits for those granted asylum will be interrupted within a month. From then on, they will have to work for a living. This makes our country a less attractive destination for migration flows," the minister said.

Residents of a town in the Serrres region rumored to host one of the camps staged protests earlier this week and local officials declared their opposition to the plan.

Over 1,700 migrants have landed on Lesbos and four other Aegean islands from Turkey over the past week, adding to the 38,000 already crammed into abysmal and overstretched refugee centers.

The new surge has ramped up already high tensions on Lesbos, an island that has been on the migration frontline for years.

Frustration exploded into violence last weekend with mobs setting up roadblocks, attacking cars carrying NGO workers and beating journalists.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary



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respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction. AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

