



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Nightmare of Devastation in Syria's Yarmouk Camp Haunts Palestinian Schoolchildren"

- **Palestinian University Student Missing in Damascus**
- **Parents Denounce Mistreatment against Palestinian Child by School Teacher in Khan Dannun Refugee Camp**
- **Relief Items Handed Over to Displaced Palestinian Families North of Syria**

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in Syria have to walk past the debris of war everyday to reach their schools in nearby suburbs, enduring a scary journey that never ceases to remind them of the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones.

Citing the examples of seventh-graders Sondous and Zahra'a, from Yarmouk refugee camp, UNRWA said students walk past devastated buildings, black and grey, with rooftops that are bent over, kissing the ground.



The two girls are among thousands of Palestine refugee children in Syria who bear the scars of the Syrian war. Although cautious calm has replaced active war in Yarmouk, they feel unsafe when they leave the school in the afternoon, especially in winter when it gets dark early.

“Walking from the school in Yalda to our homes in Yarmouk in the evening is scary, but what choice do we have? To reach our homes, we have to walk past destroyed and empty buildings in the camp. It looks like a ghost town and feels haunted,” 14-year-old Zahra'a told UNRWA.



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For Sondous, the devastation has become a nightmare that haunts her night and day. “It’s etched into my brain,” she said. “I dream of it. I can’t get over it. When we returned to our house in the camp last year, I was overwhelmed with so many different feelings. My heart beat faster as we approached our home.”

“I was so happy to be back, to return to where I had spent my early childhood. I thought about my father and how he would no longer have to pay for our rented apartment. But the sight of the destruction stopped me in my tracks, I thought of all those whose houses were now that rubble I saw before me. Inside our house, all my toys were burnt except a small orange plastic fish,” she adds.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

As a result of hostilities, in 2013, UNRWA moved the al-Faloujeh school from Yarmouk to the neighboring suburb of Yalda. Throughout the devastating years of the conflict, students remaining in Yarmouk would take the perilous journey to their school in Yalda in order to continue their education.

In another development, Palestinian university student Omran Ahmad AlAzoun, from Yarmouk Camp, has gone missing in Damascus after he walked out of the College Of Mechanical And Electrical Engineering on way to the Faculty of Law to apply for delaying compulsory military service.



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His family said his condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

Updated data by AGPS indicates that 331 Palestinian refugees, including 40 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare. Several other Palestinians have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government penitentiaries.



Activists have accused pro-government militias in Syria of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the family of Palestinian refugee child Yamen Mohamed Hamid said their son was heavily beaten by an instructor at Jericho School, in Khan Dannoun camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

The child was reportedly beaten last Tuesday after he asked the teacher to go to the toilet. His family said he has gone paranoiac and refuses to go to school.



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The parents appealed to the school administration to take the necessary measures in response to mistreatment against schoolchildren, who have already been traumatized by a merciless warfare.

In the meantime, the Turkish Orphanage distributed food aids and relief items to displaced families in Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya refugee camps, north of Syria, in an attempt to alleviate their suffering.

Palestinian refugees sheltered north of Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in under-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services. The families continue to slam UNRWA and the international humanitarian organizations for failing to hand them over much-needed cash aids, medical items, and relief services.

