



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



"4 Palestinian Refugees Arrested South of Damascus"

- Liwaa AlQuds in Syria Involved in Serious Human Rights Abuses
- Palestinian Family Appeals to Turkish Authorities to Release Their Relative
- Palestinians of Syria Deprived of Heating Equipment

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Latest Developments

22 young men, including four Palestinian refugees, were arrested by Syrian security forces in southern Damascus.

The Palestinian arrestees were residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, before they were displaced to the nearby Beit Sahem town.

On Tuesday, March 8, Syrian forces patrolled Babilla and Sidi Mikdad. The sweep culminated in the detention of 22 young men on claims of draft evasion and legal ambivalence.

Sawt AlAsima news site said checkpoints were pitched in the area.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus are living in distress due to the arbitrary arrest sweeps and crackdowns perpetrated by the Syrian security forces.

Palestinian refugees have been subjected to movement crackdowns and denied free access out of and into southern Damascus towns.

Over 5,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus have been grappling with dire conditions due to the price leap, steep rental fees, and forced military conscription with pro-government forces.

In another development, the commander of Liwaa AlQuds Brigade, Mohamed AlSa'id, affiliated with the Syrian regime, has been reportedly involved in campaigns to force Palestinian refugee youths sheltered in the displacement camps of Hindarat and



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AlNeirab, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, to join pro-regime militias in Syria.

Nearly 7,000 gunmen are enlisted at Liwaa AlQuds brigade, among them 600 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in refugee camps across the Syrian territories.

A number of Palestinian refugee families have been blackmailed by Liwaa AlQuds brigade affiliated with the Syrian regime, as they appealed for the release of their relatives who have been arbitrarily arrested by the militia.

Palestinian refugees have been charged with counterfeit accusations, including drug trafficking, sexual abuse, and affiliations with rival parties in order to force their families to pay large sums of money to avoid fatal torture and long prison-terms.

Sometime earlier, Liwaa AlQuds brigade arrested a resident of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees over claims of drug-trafficking. Local sources denied the accusations and told AGPS that the arrestee—Ahmad Ali Meyari—has achieved outstanding school results and has a good reputation. Ahmad got the highest score (238/240) at his final secondary school exams.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group have been accused of running a network for drug trafficking in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas. 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.



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AGPS kept record of the death of 90 Palestinian refugees as they fought alongside Liwaa AlQuds forces since 2013.

In another development, the family of a Palestinian refugee appealed to the Turkish authorities to release their relative Aghid Mohamed AlSaadi, who was arrested by Turkish police after they broke into his apartment in the Turkish metropolitan city of Istanbul.

Palestinian refugee Aghid Mohamed AlSaadi, a former resident of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, north of Syria, was detained some 40 days ago by Turkish police.

Local sources said a fight broke out between Arab and Turkish youths living in the same apartment. Police showed up in the area and arrested all those involved.

Aghid's friends said he was not involved in the fight. His family continues to appeal for information about his condition.

Turkish authorities often repatriate refugees from Syria involved in law breaches to the war-torn country.

Last month, Foreign Policy magazine said Syria is neither safe nor stable for migrant returns.

The magazine said the civil war continues. Returnees often disappear without a trace into the hands of the security state. Assad's regime is not in danger of overthrow, but it totters, dependent on its foreign backers and hungry for foreign capital. It continues to engage in violence in opposition-held zones and in the



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so-called reconciled areas while becoming quietly known in its near abroad as a lawless narco-state engaged mainly in exporting refugees and drugs.

In the meantime, as weather temperatures have gone down, Palestinian refugee families in Syria continue to struggle with multiple hardships.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugees said they have no heating equipment except for blankets and mattresses.

The families expressed fear that they won't be able to cook their food or keep the cold out of their homes due to fuel dearth.

The refugees have launched into a tirade against the malpractices of Syria's burgeoning black oil market, fuel shortages, and—most of all—the exorbitant prices of wood and fuel charged by corrupt officials and traders.

The price of a ton of wood has been raised to 180, 000 Syrian pounds while a liter of fuel is sold in the black market at over 250 pounds.

Families barely receive 100 liters of fuel through the smart card, which has become essential in the Syrian government-held areas. With this card, a family can obtain their small but vital allocations of heating oil, gas, bread, sugar, rice, and other goods. In early 2019, the Syrian government began the smart card system, which allegedly aimed to stop monopolization of aid and provide support to those in need.



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At the same time, desperate for warmth, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking refuge in under-equipped camps and substandard facilities have been burning their clothes and plastic materials to stave off winter cold after they failed to afford firewood and fuel supplies.

This has resulted in heavy smokes engulfing camps from all corners and engendering civilians', particularly children's, health condition.

Activists sounded the alarm over the health hazards emanating from toxic smokes. Scores of children have sustained costochondritis (chest inflammation) and bronchitis due to heavy smoke inhalation.