



## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**ALTadhamun Massacre...A Reminder of the War Crimes Committed against Palestinian Refugees in Syria**

- Palestinian Prisoners' Families Voice Deep Concern over Their Relatives' Condition
- Palestinian Refugee Families Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime
- Food Parcels Distributed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees



## Latest Development

Palestinian refugee families continue to live in perpetual fear over the condition and whereabouts of their forcibly-disappeared relatives after the Guardian published an investigation with footage showing a massacre taking place in Tadamon, near Syria's capital Damascus, in April 2013, and claiming the lives of 41 people, including Palestinian refugees.

Three Palestinian refugees--Wasim Omar Seyam, Sa'id Ahmad Khatab, Abd Luay AlKubra, residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus—were identified in the footage.

Tadamon is a suburb south of Damascus. It was there that groups of civilians were rounded up, sent towards an execution pit, and shot dead.

The British newspaper reported that the mass grave contained at least 41 bodies following the massacre. The bodies were then doused with fuel and set alight. In the video footage, soldiers could be heard laughing. The massacre took place just a few miles from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power.

The footage is one of the most indictable videos from the whole Syrian conflict and gives a glimpse into a previously untold part of the eleven-year war.

The video is a reminder of the so-called "Mig Massacre", also known as "Abdul Kader AlHusaini massacre", in Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus. At the time of the attack, the mosque served as a shelter for hundreds of families who fled the



regime strikes on the camp. Dozens of civilians, including children and women, were killed in the massacre. The event marked the largest mass exodus from Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Only a handful of families have regained access to the camp, after the government forces recaptured the area.

A few years ago, some 1,400 people were forced to leave AlSayeda Zeinab Camp for Palestinian refugees before they were horrendously massacred in cold-blood. Women were also raped and victims' bodies burned down.

Last week, chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic Paulo Pinheiro has asserted that detention in Syria is equivalent to disappearance.

Pinheiro stressed that the futures of tens of thousands of civilians are unknown, most of whom have been in the regime's prisons for ten years.

He explained that predictions indicate that most detainees have been executed and buried in mass graves, and others subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Pinheiro added that being arrested in Syria today is tantamount to disappearing and urged the need to establish an independent mechanism with international authorities to investigate the issue of disappeared civilians.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee families expressed fear that their relatives would not be released in the recent amnesty issued



by Syria's President Bashar AlAssad, saying they have suspicions as to how sincere the Syrian regime could be.

Earlier this month, Syrian president Bashar AlAssad issued a decree giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022. The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.

Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad's government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

Thousands were discovered killed under torture when a defector leaked nearly 50,000 photographs in 2014, showing the bodies of some 7,000 detainees mutilated by torture.

Recently, the families of hundreds of Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons have reported being blackmailed over their appeals for information about the condition and whereabouts of their missing relatives.

Over 1,700 Palestinian refugees are believed to be languishing in Syria's prisons, many of them have spent nearly a decade in prison while scores of others died under torture behind prison bars.

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights data, at least 132,000 civilians are currently imprisoned by the regime; the opposition says that the number reaches hundreds of thousands.

Meanwhile, Members of same families have been secretly held behind Syrian prison bars for years.



The list includes four members of the Palestinian Daoud family: Nour Ahmad Daoud, born in 1987, a resident of AlHajar AlAswad area, and the father of a young girl. He was kidnapped in 2013; Daoud Ahmad Daoud, born in 1986, a resident of AlHajar AlAswad, and the father of two boys and a girl. He was kidnapped at the Batikha checkpoint.

The list also includes the two brothers Mahmoud Mohamed Kheir Daoud, born in 1996, and Ali Mohamed Kheir Daoud, born in 1998. Both are residents of AlHajar AlAswad and were kidnapped in 2014 from AlDweilaa area, in Damascus.

At the same time, five members from the Mouloud family have been forcibly disappeared. They were kidnapped on July 27, 2013 at a government-run checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in AlTadhamun neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.

The family's 73-year-old father, Mouloud Khalid AlAbdullah, had been diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases while the mother, Dheiba, 65, is a diabetic patient. Al Abdullah family members Ilham, 48, Anaam, 33, Yasmeen, 39, along with the latter's six-year-old kid Obada, have all gone missing so far.

Ten members of the Amayri family have also been secretly incarcerated in Syrian government prisons since June 16, 2013.

Mahira Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1964), Hadeel Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1987), Aseel Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1988), Widad Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1990), Razan Mahmoud Amayri (born in 2000), Suheer Mahmoud Amayri (born in 1981), Maysaa Jamal Idris (born in 1979), Firas Waleed Dasouki (born in 1978)



along with his children Hamza Firas Dasouki (born in 2011) and Hala Firas Dasouki (born in 2012) were all kidnapped by Syria's pro-government squads at a checkpoint in Nisreen Street, in ALTadhamun neighborhood.

Additionally, Palestinian refugee Tawfiq Jebali and his two sons Mohamed Kheir and Wael, previously sheltered in Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, have been secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons since October 15, 2012.

In October 2020, AGPS learned that Tawfiq's son Wael had been incarcerated in an isolated cell in the highly-secretive Sednaya military prison.

In 2019, the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) stated in its first report, entitled "Sednaya Prison: Factory of death and enforced disappearance in Syria", that inmates have been tortured to death in the highly-secretive penal complex.

The report monitored the procedures and consequences of detention in Sednaya Prison in Syria, which the Assad regime continues to use as a main centre for the detention and enforced disappearance of political detainees, denying them any contact with the outside world and subjecting them to poor conditions that often lead to death.

The report stated that the Syrian regime itself is unable to issue accurate lists of the numbers of detainees due to the numerous victims of extrajudicial executions, torture, starvation, deprivation, and medical neglect.



The ADMSP identified 24 types of psychological torture which included mock executions, being forced to watch other inmates being tortured, and threats against prisoners' families.

Sexual abuse has also significantly increased under the Assad regime, with around a third of detainees admitted to have suffered from this form of torture at Sednaya.

Few inmates expect to emerge from Syria's Sednaya prison alive, a place where routine torture and inhumane living conditions are, obviously, all designed to break the hope and dignity of prisoners, according to human rights groups.

In the meantime, AlMarhama Charity Convoy distributed on Thursday, May 12, food parcels to vulnerable families in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Head of the Convoy Khaled AlYousef sounded the alarm over the dire humanitarian condition endured by Palestinian and Syrian families in the ravaged Yarmouk Camp.

After more than a decade of bloody conflict, families who have returned to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have been grappling with a dire humanitarian situation.

The absence of vital facilities, most notably healthcare services and access to education, along with the poor infrastructure and absence of means of transportation have made the situation unbearable in the camp.

At the same time, the residents continue to grapple with a chronic power blackout and exorbitant electricity bills. Mounds of rubble



pile and uncleared garbage have made access out of and into the area quite a difficult task.

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.