



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



"Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syrian Prisons"

- Palestinian Refugee Nidal Kasem Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8th Year
- UNRWA Pledges Rehabilitation of Deraa Camp
- Reconstruction Works ongoing South of Damascus
- Follow-Up Committee Urges Gaza's Returnees from Syria to Update Personal Information

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee “Mahmoud K” died under torture in Syrian prisons, where he has been held for nearly seven years.

His family who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity over retaliation concerns, mourned his death which they described as another episode in the series of horrendous crimes committed by the Syrian regime.

Mahmoud’s death brings the toll of victims of torture among Palestinian refugees in Syria to 622.

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).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of



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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.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Nidal Haithem Kasem has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

Nidal, born in 1995 and raised in Syria's Hama refugee camp, was arrested on September 09, 2013 near the Lebanese borders.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

Meanwhile UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) promised to facilitate the return of displaced families to Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, and to rehabilitate the infrastructure and vital facilities.

This came in a meeting between UNRWA's Director of Syria Operations, GAPAR's chief, and representatives of Deraa refugee camp.

UNRWA pledged to reconstruct Tiberias School and the local clinic in a few months. The Agency also promises the construction of a stadium and a park on the ruins of AlSafsaf School.

GAPAR promised to work on rehabilitating the sanitation, water, and power networks and to clear debris from the camp in cooperation with UNRWA.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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The residents expressed hope that life would go back to normal in the ravaged camp in the near future and that reconstruction projects would create employment opportunities for nearly 200 people in the camp.

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, only 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

Meanwhile, efforts have been ongoing by Damascus Governorate to reconstruct the infrastructure in AlHajar AlAswad, near Yarmouk Camp, where hundreds of displaced Palestinian families have sought shelter.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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Damascus Governorate said that over 70% of infrastructure has been rehabilitated in the nearby AlThwarah and Tishreen neighborhoods.

It pledged to speed up works to reconstruct the sanitation, water, power, and telecommunications networks.

A committee is expected to see the day right after the finalization of reconstruction works in order to facilitate the return of displaced families to their houses.

In the meantime, the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Gaza has called upon Palestinian returnees from Syria to update their personal records, particularly those whose rental grants have been suspended since June 2018 and those who receive aid every three months.

The committee said updates include the refugee's name, family members, address, and contact numbers. The data will also be used by UNRWA.

Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees say they have been deprived of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 14-year Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.