



## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية  
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### Syrian Regime Tightens Grip on AlSabina Camp for Palestinian Refugees

- Deraa Camp Cemetery Ravaged by Anonymous Party
- Humanitarian Situation in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Exacerbated by Power Blackout
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Husain Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for 9th Year



## **Latest Development**

Syrian security forces have tightened the noose around the main entrances of AlSabina Camp for Palestinian refugees and nearby areas.

Civilians and vehicles passing through a checkpoint pitched near AlSabina Camp are subjected to intensive search.

A number of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the area have sounded distress signals over arbitrary manhunts and security sweeps by the Syrian regime which they said might be a prelude for forced military conscription.

Eleven years into the Syrian conflict, thousands of Palestinian refugees continue to suffer protracted displacement. The Syrian regime has forcibly displaced thousands of Palestinians and Syrians.

Today, those who wish to return to the vastly devastated refugee camps in Syria fear they would be arrested or forced into military conscription.

Those who were involved in anti-government protests and deserted from military service say they cannot go back to the country for fear of being jailed or persecuted.

Human rights groups have documented several cases where Syrian intelligence branches have arbitrarily detained, disappeared, and/or harassed people in areas retaken from opposition groups. The abuse is taking place even when the government has entered into reconciliation agreements with the people involved.



In another development, residents of Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees said the local cemetery has been ravaged and headstones stolen by anonymous gangsters.

A resident said he reached out to the police station but the thieves have not been caught so far.

The residents held local authorities and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) responsible for the increasing assaults on the cemetery and called for urgent reconstruction.

Prior to the conflict, the cemetery had been used as a children's park before it was turned into a graveyard for war victims.

In 2012, the residents were forced to bury their deceased relatives in the playground after they failed to reach the local cemetery due to heavy shelling and deadly shootouts.

On July 27, 2012, the war machinery claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. Their bodies were all buried overnight in a collective pit dug in the playground. The area has become known as the "Martyrs' Cemetery".

Meanwhile, residents of AlSayeda Zeinab camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, said power has been operative only for one hour a day, resulting in food spoilage.

Students and schoolchildren have had difficulties revising for their final exams.

Eleven years into the conflict, Palestinian refugee families in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp continue to grapple with abject conditions.



More than half of the residents lost their sources of income. Scores of families continue to live below the poverty line due to exorbitant prices of food and non-food items. As a result, scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

UN data indicates that the camp was established on an area of 0.02 square kilometers in 1948, but the majority of the residents came in 1967. The inhabitants, who were displaced from the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan Heights during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, sought refuge for the second time in their lives in the area. Most had originally fled to the Golan Heights in 1948 from nearby villages in northern Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 23,700 Palestine refugees. The camp was affected by violent clashes that forced 40 per cent of the people to leave in late 2012.

Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the major concerns shared not only by Palestine refugees but also Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria. The majority of Palestine refugees in AlSayeda Zeinab work as day laborers, government employees or vendors.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Omar Husain, born in 1997, has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the ninth consecutive year.





Mohamed, raised in Deraa camp, south of Syria, was arrested by Syrian security forces on June 10, 2013. His family received no information as to his condition and whereabouts.

Over 1,900 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 630 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees 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 detainees, 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 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.

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.