



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



**"Activists: Over 22,000 Palestinian Refugees from Syria Will Have Been
Granted Swedish Citizenship by end of 2018"**

- Over 35 Palestinian Women & Girls Killed under Torture in Syrian Jails
- Initiative Launched in AlSayeda Zeinab to Rehabilitate Street Lighting
- Water Structures Installed in Aleppo's Handarat Camp

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Latest Developments

Palestinian activists in Sweden said more than 22,100 Palestinian refugees from Syria will have obtained Swedish citizenship by the end of 2018.

Referring to studies and statistics conducted by the Swedish Migration Office, the activists said as many as 14,450 Palestinians from Syria were granted Swedish citizenship from 2015 to 2017. From January to October 2018, another 5,674 Palestinians from Syria received citizenship documents from the Swedish authorities.



Palestinian refugees from Syria who have stayed in Sweden for four years are eligible to apply for citizenship in the kingdom. No other prerequisites have been set by Sweden for citizenship applications. Children of Palestinians from Syria who were born in Sweden and one of whose parents has got a permanent residence permit are systematically granted citizenship.

However, the time-span allocated for examining applications for visas or family reunification submitted by refugees from Syria is often estimated as being very long.



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Meanwhile, AGPS documented the death of 35 Palestinian women and girls under torture in Syrian government dungeons.

The total death toll among the Palestinians of Syria who have fallen prey to fatal torture in Syrian state prisons has hit 558, among them children and elderly refugees.

AGPS believes the number to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.



According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

A woman said she had been sexually molested by prison officers for over 10 times a day until she got pregnant. She ended up aborting due to aggressive beating.

In the meantime, as many as 1,709 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian state jails, among them 108 women and girls.



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Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, social prestige, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.

In another development, activists from the Community Development Center in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp embarked on a project to repair lighting in streets and alleyways.

AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, held by the Syrian government forces and their affiliated popular committees, has been gripped with dire socio-economic conditions as a result of the high rates of unemployment. Scores of civilians have fled the camp while others have been forced to join pro-government battalions.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the International Red Cross popped in Handrat Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, to install water facilities and a pump in response to the damage inflicted on the water network by the warfare.

Sometime earlier, the Syrian Red Crescent and Red Cross organizations dispatched five water tanks to the camp following an increase in the number of returnees.



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Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.



According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 175 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.