



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين 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



"Seminar Staged by PRC & AGPS at UNHRC Warns of Exacerbated Situation of Displaced Palestinians in Northern Syria"

- **Hamas Issues 6th Annual Report about Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon**
- **Palestinian Families in AlNeirab Camp Launch Cry for Help over Water Crisis**
- **Palestinian Refugee Nidhal AlMesri Secretly Jailed in Syria for 8th Year**

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Latest Developments

The London-based Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), in partnership with the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS), hosted on Wednesday a seminar on the sidelines of the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), to discuss the calamitous situation of the displaced Palestinian refugees north of Syria. A number of academics and human rights experts were in attendance.

Inaugurating the seminar, Dr. Anne Irfan, historian of the modern Middle East and lecturer at SOAS University in London, contextualized the Palestinian refugee cause within its legal and historical frame both prior and after the outbreak of the Syrian conflict in 2011.



Dr. Irfan also underscored the situation of Palestine refugees outside the Syrian territories and the role played by UNRWA and UNHCR in this regard.

PRC's media chief, Mr. Ahmad Hosain, also AGPS' Executive Director, shed light on the situation of Palestinian refugees in



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northern Syria, particularly in Deir Ballout Camp, where some 1,400 refugees have been taking shelter for nearly one year.

Mr. Hosain warned of the abject conditions endured by the displaced Palestinian families in light of the striking apathy maintained by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Mr. Hosain said PRC has reached out to UNRWA in order to urge the UN agency to issue an immediate response as regards the displaced refugees, but no reply has been released by the UN agency.

Head of AGPS' Studies Department Ibrahim AlAli, also the group's representative in Turkey, delivered a presentation about UNRWA's allotted mission vis-à-vis the Palestinian refugees and the repercussions of the latest service cuts.

AlAli wrapped up his oral performance by putting forth a set of recommendations seeking to tone down the tragic situation of Palestinian refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories. He called on UNRWA to stretch its map of field of operations and reach out to displaced Palestinian communities in other destinations.

AGPS' speaker raised alarm bells over the refugees' unending suffering and urged the international community to boost funds for UNRWA so as to help the agency keep up its core services for Palestine refugees.

Live footages and affidavits were put on display in the seminar, which was chaired by PRC's researcher Jamal Abu Eisheh.



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In another development, Hamas Office of Refugee Affairs issued its sixth annual report about the situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon in 2018, seven years after a tide of mass exodus to Lebanon saw the day in December 2012.

The report covered the precarious legal status and calamitous socio-economic conditions endured by Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syrian to Lebanon.

The study found out that the number of refugees in 2018 has shrunk back to 18,000, down from 31,000 in 2017, according to UNRWA estimates announced on January 9, 2017.

The report attributed such a decrease to the crackdowns perpetrated against Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon, along with the poor health services, the lack of humanitarian assistance by such relief organs as UNRWA, costly visa-renewal fees, and lack of access to the local labor market.

Hamas Office of Refugee Affairs urged the UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Lebanese government to work on enhancing conditions for Palestinian refugees, secure their right to legal, physical, and moral protection, and provide them with much-needed humanitarian aid pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

Sometime earlier, UNRWA said the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon has seen a striking decrease with 31,147 refugees in 2016, compared to nearly 80,000 in 2013.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp have been grappling with dire conditions due to the acute dearth in drinking-water supplies and breakdowns in local power networks.

A memorandum handed over by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees to the Director-General of Aleppo's Water Supply and Sewerage Company, called for an urgent response to the crisis and for the rehabilitation of water networks to Palestinian returnees.



Massive destruction wrought on the camp by Syria's bloody warfare led to the deportation of hundreds of civilians from their homes in Handarat on April 27, 2013.

According to data by the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Nidhal AlMesri has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government prisons, where he has been locked up for the eighth consecutive year.



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Nidhal, a paramedic, was kidnapped in December 2011 from an ambulance run by medical staff of the Bisan Hospital in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums

AGPS kept record of the names of 1,733 Palestinians, including 108 women and girls, secretly incarcerated in Syrian regime penitentiaries, where 572 refugees also died under torture.