



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي 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



"Sweden Rejects Asylum Applications by Palestinian Refugees from Damascus"

- Resident of Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria Goes Missing
- Palestinian Refugee Injured in Syria Desert
- Palestinian Refugee Ammar Mer'i Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Jails

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Latest Developments

The Swedish Migration Agency has turned down applications for humanitarian asylum by Palestinian refugees fleeing Damascus, claiming the city is a secure zone and the refugees can safely return to it.

A number of Palestinian refugees told AGPS that the Swedish migration authorities turned down their applications for visas which they had submitted in 2019.

A refugee said he had appealed the Agency's decision, saying his family has been chased down by the Syrian security forces and once they return to Damascus they will be arrested.

Human rights activists said Sweden no longer considers Syria an unsafe place for refugees. In order for visa applications to be accepted, the refugee should provide proofs of personal threats.

Recently, a new debate has been opened by the migration committee at the Swedish parliament to determine post-coronavirus migration policy in the kingdom. The proposed draft law seeks to replace the temporary asylum law that will remain into effect until next summer.

According to Swedish media outlets, the Social Democrats Party will take part in a debate to determine the number of migrants to be hosted by Sweden in line with the new migration policy.

At the same time, the Christian Democrats Party has launched calls to reduce the number of migrants and implement tougher regulations. The Green Party strongly condemned such closed-door immigration policies.



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Official Swedish statistics have indicated that 3,296 Palestinian asylum-seekers categorized as “stateless” received citizenship documents in Sweden in 2019.

Over the past few years, thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among other migrants, who have applied for asylum in Sweden were granted two-year visas.

Eligibility criteria set by the Swedish authorities include a well-paid work contract valid for a minimum of two years and which enters into force before the expiration of the temporary visa. The employer should submit a recruitment declaration at the Swedish tax authority, taking into consideration the conditions defined by the national trade unions.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Yaser Hasan Suleiman, a resident of Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, disappeared on Sunday on his way to Damascus province. His current condition remains unknown.

Yaser’s family said their son, aged 29, is a person with special needs. They have appealed to the concerned institutions to work on revealing his condition and whereabouts before it is too late.

Nearly 330 Palestinian refugees, including dozens of women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare, AGPS has found out.

Most of those who have disappeared in the country are residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Activists have accused pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the



security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Dgheim, a resident of Handarat refugee camp, in Aleppo, was injured in a combing operation with Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian government, in Deir AlZor, in the Syrian desert.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Ammar Mer'i has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the 5th consecutive year.

He was arrested by Syrian security forces in AlZahira in 2014. His condition and whereabouts remain unknown.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of over 1,770 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups.