



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



"7 Years On...Civilians Still Bearing Tragic Weight of Khan Eshieh 'Catastrophe'"

- **Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syrian Prison**
- **Reconstruction Works to Be Kick-Started in Few Weeks in Yarmouk**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Victims

Palestinian refugee Mamdouh Rebhi Khalifa has died under torture in Syrian government prisons, where he had been locked up for nearly six months.

The victim, a resident of Yarmouk refugee camp, was arrested in May 2014 at his home in Kafr Sousa, in Damascus.

AGPS data indicates that 618 Palestinian refugees have died under torture in Syria's state-run penitentiaries.

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 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.



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Latest Developments

All the way through Syria's nine-year conflict, Palestinian refugee camps have witnessed heavy destruction and displacement.

On March 13, 2013, the opposition outfits attacked a military barrack where Syrian government troops were deployed after they backtracked from the camp. The shootouts culminated in the opposition's takeover of the camp.



According to live testimonies from the camp, the Syrian government battalions showered the camp with missiles and mortar shells. Over 3,000 mortars hit the camp in less than 24 hours. Dozens of Palestinian refugees were killed and hundreds injured. Scores of families got displaced.

Just a couple of days later, some 3,000 families, including 10,000 Palestinian refugees, fled the camp on way to the western zones of Alghouta and other areas. Most of them had been left without roofs over their heads.

A tough cordon had also been imposed on the camp, blocking civilians' access out of and into the area. Heavy shelling continued to rock the camp until mid-2016 by Russian and Syrian fighter jets.



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Nearly 12,000 Palestinian refugees were ultimately forced out of the camp.

According to AGPS statistics, 203 Palestinian residents of Khan Eshieh refugee camp have died of war-related incidents in Syria. 248 others have been secretly detained in Syrian government penal complexes.

In another development, pro-government sources in Syria said a flock of reconstruction vehicles will enter Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, within a two weeks' time.

According to the same sources, Syrian government forces removed concrete blocks set up at the main entrance to the camp pending the entrance of reconstruction vehicles.



Scores of stranded families fled Yarmouk following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.



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A few months earlier, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.