



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

17-04-2021

No. 3194

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS: Over 1,700 Palestinian Refugees Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons"

- Palestinian Ambassador in Damascus, Resident of Yarmouk Camp Succumb to Coronavirus
- Residents of AlNeirab Camp Grappling with Gas Crisis
- Palestinian Refugee Wins Top Scorer Award in Syrian Youth League
- Bread Packs Distributed in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

On the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, AGPS reiterates its deep concern about the condition of more than 1,700 refugees forcibly disappeared in Syria's state-run lock-ups.

AGPS data indicates that 1,797 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 620 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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 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 numbers 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.



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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.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ambassador to Damascus Mahmoud Al-Khalidi died due to complications from coronavirus, Palestinian embassy in Damascus, Syria, announced on Saturday.

“Al-Khalidi passed away in Jaffa Hospital in Damascus,” the embassy said. “The burial will take place in the martyrs’ cemetery in the Yarmouk camp.”

On his part, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas mourned Al-Khalidi’s death, declaring a one-day state mourning.

The ambassador was one of the founders of the “Fatah” movement. He began his political career in 1969.

At the same time, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Abu Kharaj, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, succumbed to the deadly virus in Syria.

So far, 21 Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have died of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Palestinians taking refuge in AlNeirab Camp in Aleppo, north of Syria, have launched urgent appeals for gas and fuel supplies needed for cooking and heating.



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The residents said local markets have run out of gas and fuel, slamming the unequal distribution of gas cylinders across Syrian provinces.

As a result, civilians have been forced to purchase gas and fuel from the black market at over twice their ordinary price. A gas cylinder is reportedly sold at 45,000 Syrian pounds.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlNeirab Camp continue to sound distress signals over the high rates of unemployment, water and power outages, along with the absence of healthcare services and vital medicines.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.



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The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In another development, Palestinian football player Udai Radwan Hassoun, born in 1994 in Hama city, won the top scorer award as part of the Syrian Youth League 2020/2021.

Udai scored 21 goals in 21 matches. He is the team's best player with 26 goals in total and the second best goal maker.

In the meantime, AlKheir Campaign distributed 1,150 bread packs to residents of Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

As the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.



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Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. Inside Deraa camp, all UNRWA premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands.

As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict. Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.