



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

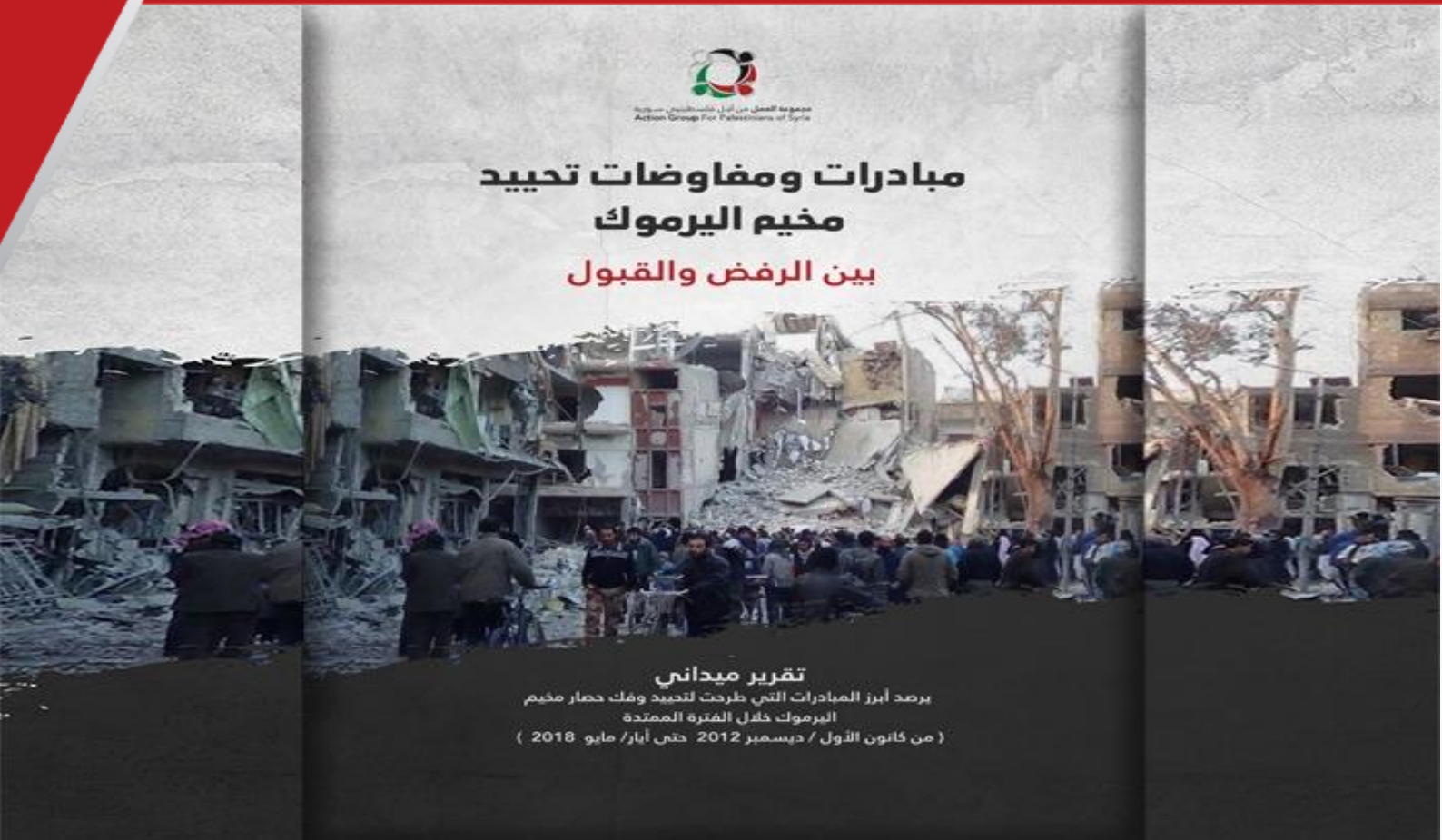
17-06-2020

No. 2794

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS Issues New Report about Yarmouk Camp"

- UNRWA Staff in Lebanon Accused of Mismanagement
- 3 Residents of Palestinian Refugee Camp Released from Syrian Jails
- 53 Residents of AlRaml Camp for Palestinian Refugees Pronounced Dead in War-Torn Syria

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Latest Developments

A new report issued by AGPS on June 16 has tackled initiatives and negotiations seeking to neutralize the camp and keeping the residents at bay from raging hostilities.

Divided into two major parts, the report covers official and popular initiatives launched between the end of December 2012 and May 22, 2018 to neutralize Yarmouk camp, lift the tough siege imposed on the area, disarm the camp, and allow civilians to safely return to their homes.

Statements released to that end and responses to such initiatives are also included in the report.

The new report covers the challenges and difficulties encountered by the documentation team during the data-collection process.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.

Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.



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Last year, 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.

A number of activists have warned of ongoing attempts to alter the demographic character of the camp and blur its identity as a living witness to the Palestinian refugee plight.

In another development, activists and NGOs have accused UNRWA staff in Lebanon of corruption and mismanagement.

The accusations were made in response to the mistreatment Palestinian refugees have been subjected to during the aid distribution process.

Over recent days, the Coalition of Popular Committees of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon has called on UNRWA to open an investigation into corruption and bribery allegations against distribution staff working for the Agency.

The coalition said the mistreatment the refugees have been subjected to during aid delivery processes at Bob Finance office bank are proofs of mismanagement by UNRWA staff members and administration.



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The coalition called on UNRWA to resume transfer of cash grants to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and to set a practical mechanism to monitor distribution processes.

Last week, UNRWA announced its decision to suspend cash aid transfer for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon pending the finalization of the required checks.

The Agency said aid distribution will be suspended starting June 11 until further notice.

A few weeks ago, UNRWA in Lebanon said it will start implementing an online program to transfer cash grants to Palestinian refugees in an attempt to rein in overcrowding outside of the Bob Finance bank.

The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.

Meanwhile, three residents of Khan Eshieh Palestinian refugee camp, in Syria, were released from Syria government prisons.

The newly-released inmates were arrested between 2018 and 2019, following a reconciliation agreement struck between the Syrian government and opposition groups.



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AGPS has not revealed their names over security concerns.

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

Along similar lines, AGPS has documented the death of 53 residents of AlRaml camp for Palestinian refugees since the outburst of the Syrian conflict.

The list includes 36 victims who died under torture, two who were gunned down by snipers, 12 who were fatally shot, and two other residents who were killed following their abduction. Another resident died of a health setback.

UN data indicates that AlRaml camp, in Latakia, is an "unofficial" camp located within the city boundaries of Latakia on the Mediterranean coast. The camp was established in 1955-1956 on an area of 0.22 square kilometers. Most of the refugees originally came from the city of Jaffa and villages in northern Palestine.

Before the start of conflict in 2011, the camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees. It is estimated that 2,000 Palestine refugees have left the country. The camp has been largely unaffected by the hostilities, meaning that it has become a safe haven for Palestine refugees from Aleppo, Yarmouk and other places. Currently there are 14,000 Palestine refugees living in and around Latakia. This has increased demands on UNRWA services.

Residents of the camp are mostly civil servants or employed in shops. Fishing also provides a small income for many refugees.



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Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike. Increasing poverty and hardship as a direct consequence of the ongoing crisis in Syria has led to an increase of negative coping mechanisms like early marriage, child labour and drug consumption.