

18-05-2022

No. 3583

مجموعة العمل

من أجل فلسطينيي سورية

Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**Palestinian Prisoners' Families Appeal to Syrian Regime to Include Their Relatives in Presidential Amnesty**

- Palestinian Refugee Ends Prison-Term in Syria
- EU Denies Reports It Is Reducing UNRWA Funding
- Activists Appeal for Release of Palestinian Refugee Detained in Turkey



## **Latest Development**

Families of Palestinian refugees forcibly disappeared in Syria's state-run prisons continue to call on the United Nations, international human rights organizations, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to pressurize the Syrian regime in order to release their relatives following the latest presidential amnesty.

A few days earlier, Syrian military judge Ahmed Tozan told Sham FM radio station that the recently issued presidential amnesty decree includes Syrians exclusively, in accordance with the Syrian Nationality Law. Palestinians or any other nationalities are excluded from the pardon.

“I am the mother of a Palestinian refugee who was arrested in 2013, when he was aged 16. I call on the Syrian regime to update me about the condition and whereabouts of my son, especially following reports that the amnesty excludes Palestinian refugees”, a mother told AGPS.

She called on embassy staff and the PLO to take serious steps in order to identify the fate of her forcibly-disappeared son.

A couple of weeks ago, Syrian president Bashar AlAssad issued a decree giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022. The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.



Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad's government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Osama Rateb Ibrahim, a resident of Deraa Camp, south of Syria, was released from the Adra Central Prison in Syria, where he had been incarcerated for nearly one year.

Osama's release does not come as part of the recent presidential amnesty. He has just ended his prison term.

In another development, the European Union has denied reports claiming the bloc intends to reduce its funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), describing them as "false and baseless".

In a statement issued on May 16, the European Union stressed that it will always be a reliable and major donor to UNRWA, adding that last November, the commission transferred €92 million (\$96 million) in one payment.

The statement noted that its basic funding to UNRWA for 2022-2024 will remain at €82 million (\$85.8 million) annually.

"This is the initial annual contribution to the Agency's core funding, without adding any possible additional contributions through other EU mechanisms, appeals or new funds that could be made available at the end of the year funds are available," it added.

According to the statement, the bloc also plans to support UNRWA with an additional €15 million (\$15.7 million) within the



framework of the food security mechanism to face the consequences of high food prices due to the Russian war on Ukraine.

Last week the EU announced a three-year multiyear contribution of €246 million (\$257 million) to UNRWA.

"We are extremely grateful for this support from the European Union, steadfast partner of UNRWA and Palestine refugees... For more than 50 years, the EU has been a solid and reliable partner, and our partnership continues to allow millions of Palestine refugees to be better educated and live a dignified life, thus contributing to the development of the entire region." UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini Said in a statement following the announcement.

In the meantime, Palestinian activists have launched appeals for releasing Palestinian refugee Dhiaa AlDeen AlKubra, who has been held in Turkish custody for the fourth day.

Dhiaa was arrested in Istanbul on his way to a supermarket. Police said he does not hold a Turkish protection card known as "kimlik". Dhiaa holds a Palestinian-Authority stamped passport.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians



have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.