



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in Jaramana Camp Denounce Absence of Anti-Coronavirus Measures"

- Elderly Palestinian Refugee Struggles for Survival in Syria Displacement Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Families Torn Apart by Syria Warfare
- AGPS: PLA Affiliates Held Behind Syria Prison Bars
- Palestinian Refugee Emad Bilal Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons for 7th Year

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Latest developments

Residents of Jaramana camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, continue to speak out against the absence of anti-coronavirus drives in the area.

Activists said no measures have been implemented at schools and public facilities to protect civilians and prevent further contaminations.

Schoolchildren are seen in crowds outside of their schools, most of them without masks.

Civilians have called for implementing strict precautionary measures and for distributing hygiene kit.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying urgent action is needed to save the displacement camps.

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.



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Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Maarouf Melhem has returned to Handarat camp in Aleppo, north of Syria, after he had been displaced for four years.

The refugee has reconstructed his house, which sustained extensive material damage in the ten-year war. Though his health had taken a turn for the worse after he sustained a stroke, the refugee did his best to repair his house. He currently lives on vegetable/fruit farming.

Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services.

Displaced Palestinian families continue to call on UNRWA to take urgent steps in order to reconstruct the destroyed homes and facilities.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other areas in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.



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Meanwhile, Thousands of Palestinian refugees from Syria have been scattered in known and unknown destinations, after they were forced out of their homes and driven away from their families.

Torn from the nourishment of home and warmth of family, Palestinians have been scattered across such destinations as Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Sudan, Thailand, Malaysia, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland, France, Brazil, Chile, and Canada, among other countries.

According to UNRWA's estimates, over 120,000 Palestinian refugees fled the war-ravaged Syrian territories.

The situation has gone downhill after most of the world's countries opted for a closed-door immigration policy vis-à-vis the Palestinian refugee community from Syria.

Hundreds have embarked on life-threatening journeys onboard the death-boats to Europe or to neighboring countries as they rummaged around for safe shelters or sources of incomes.

Those who have returned to the Syrian territories have been subjected to arbitrary crackdowns and forced conscription with pro-government battalions.

Along similar lines, AGPS has documented the arrest and detention of a number of Palestinian refugees who joined the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime.



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The list includes Mohamed Ahmad Mahmoud Shatara, who was kidnapped at a government checkpoint in Hama, along with Fadi AlKhatib and Mohamed AlZein, who were arrested at a training site in Mesyaf, in Hama.

A number of PLA affiliates were also arrested by Syrian opposition forces. Sometime earlier, PLA said it managed to release six members: Ahmad AlKhatib, Majed Qaddura, Ahmad Shaaban, Mahmoud Qbeilah, Abdulatif Saiid, and Mohamed Mousa, who had been held captive by Jaysh AlIslam in Duma, in Eastern Ghouta. Other captives were released as part of a deal struck with the Syrian government.

Recently, AGPS has issued a new report entitled “The Palestine Liberation Army in Syria”.

The report provides a historical overview of PLA’s founding and its branches in Arab countries. It lays emphasis on PLA’s establishment in Syria and involvement in armed fighting alongside the Syrian regime.

The new report also provides statistics about the PLA affiliates killed in war-torn Syria. AGPS kept record of the death of 280 PLA gunmen in Syria.

To download the report, please click here:

<https://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/plainsyria.pdf>



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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Emad Mohamed Ahmed Bilal has been forcibly disappeared in Syria's state-run prisons for the seventh consecutive year.

Emad, born in 1976, was kidnapped by Syrian intelligence officers in Deraa, south of Syria, from his house in AlKashef area, on July 23, 2013. Other residents were also arrested as part of the same sweep.

AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees 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).



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As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.