



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين 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



### "Property-Theft Reported in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Children Traumatized in War-Torn Syria
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Security Mayhem in Ein AlHilweh Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Woman Provides Horrific Testimonies about Torture in Syria Prisons
- AGPS Joins UN Workshop about Human Rights Based Approach to Advocacy

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee families sheltered in and around Damascus have raised concerns over the increasing theft attempts and home-burglary reported in the area.

Several women have had their mobile phones and personal belongings stolen in public amenities and overcrowded markets.

Several refugees have had their money taken away from them by gangsters at gunpoint.

In its “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”, UNRWA said that protracted displacement, deteriorating socio-economic conditions aggravated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, dire humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to affect the lives of Palestine refugees in Syria.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.



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Along similar lines, the warfare in Syria, which has now entered its eleventh year, has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories.

Speaking with AGPS, a number of Palestinian refugee children said they have been deprived of childhood joy as they can neither buy snacks at school nor ice-cream from local shops. In the best of cases, a Palestinian child in Syria receives a pocket money of nor more than 500 Syrian Pounds in a country where a small chips box costs up to 1,000 pounds and a sandwich at school costs 1,200.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled Syria and provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.

AGPS has recorded the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria. Hundreds more have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon continue to launch cries for help over the precarious legal status and lack of protection they have been subjected to in the Lebanese territories.



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Palestinian refugees in Ein AlHilweh displacement camp continue to voice concerns over the security turmoil and uncontrolled weapon possession in the area.

On Saturday, handmade grenades and machine guns were used in shootouts that rocked the camp, resulting in four injuries. Fires also broke out at four houses.

The vast majority of Palestinians from Syria are grappling with deportation concerns and live in a perpetual fear over their families' safety due to the security mayhem rocking refugee camps in Lebanon.

Ein El Hilweh camp is located south of Saida in south Lebanon. It is the largest Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon.

The camp's inhabitants were displaced in 1948, most from coastal towns in historic Palestine. The camp also hosts a large number of Palestine refugees displaced from other parts of Lebanon, particularly from Tripoli, who came to Ein El Hilweh during the Lebanese civil war and in the aftermath of the Nahr el-Bared conflict in 2007.

Today, the ongoing Syria crisis has also led to an influx of Syrian refugees and Palestine refugees displaced from Syria.

Meanwhile, a female ex-prisoner has provided a harrowing account of torture in Syrian regime prisons.



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Speaking with AGPS on condition of anonymity, the Palestinian refugee woman said she was tortured by a man called “Azrael”, the angel of death, for one month.

She said her two brothers were arrested in 2018 after Syrian security forces recaptured Yarmouk Camp. Both of them were fatally tortured shortly after they reached a compromise with the Syrian regime.

She was arrested over allegations of affiliations with armed opposition groups in Yarmouk Camp prior to the government’s recapture of the area. She was heavily beaten and harshly tortured at the Palestine security branch. The so-called “Azrael” insulted her before he sexually abused her for one month.

The refugee was later transferred to the Sednaya military prison, widely known as Syria’s “human slaughterhouse”, in reference to the mass hangings and extermination of thousands of prisoners.

“Following months of torture, I was released by wardens who said my detention was a mistake and threatened to kill me if I reveal the horrors of my experience in prison”, she added.

In 2019, the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) stated in its first report, entitled “Sednaya Prison: Factory of death and enforced disappearance in Syria”, that inmates have been tortured to death in the highly-secretive penal complex.



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The report monitored the procedures and consequences of detention in Sednaya Prison in Syria, which the Assad regime continues to use as a main centre for the detention and enforced disappearance of political detainees, denying them any contact with the outside world and subjecting them to poor conditions that often lead to death.

The report stated that the Syrian regime itself is unable to issue accurate lists of the numbers of detainees due to the numerous victims of extrajudicial executions, torture, starvation, deprivation, and medical neglect. The report also

The ADMSP identified 24 types of psychological torture which included mock executions, being forced to watch other inmates being tortured, and threats against prisoners' families.

Every former prisoner interviewed reported to have been beaten with sticks of batons in Sednaya, with 20 forms of torture identified, often resulting in the death of the inmates.

Almost all reported being whipped or beaten while trapped inside a tire, with other forms of torture including being suspended from the arms, electrocution, and the "German chair", which sees inmates tied around a chair with pressure applied.

Sexual abuse has also significantly increased under the Assad regime, with around a third of detainees admitted to have suffered from this form of torture at Sednaya.



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Few inmates expect to emerge from Syria's Sednaya prison alive, a place where routine torture and inhumane living conditions are, obviously, all designed to break the hope and dignity of prisoners, according to human rights groups.

In the meantime, AGPS participated in a training workshop about the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in advocacy and project management held by the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The three-day workshop, held between September 14-16, tackled human rights activism by CSOs and the issue of enforced disappearance.

The workshop underscored the definition and principles of HRBA along with the challenges, advocacy mechanisms, mapping, and cooperation. It further highlighted the importance of the people-centric approach.

The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to programming is a methodology that has been used for over a decade to integrate human rights principles and standards in civil society programmes around the world. The approach has been applied in development contexts that often assume a stable political environment, a large and protected civic space, and the possibility for civil society actors to engage with duty bearers at the level of government institutions. The people centric approach applies aspects of HRBA to a context where this baseline may not be available. It does so in three ways: First, it identifies strategic openings for human rights advocacy and technical assistance. Second, it takes economic, political and



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cultural complexities into account when analysing and addressing human rights challenges. And last, it ensures that a practical and gradual change in the enjoyment of human rights at the level of individuals is achieved.

The people-centric approach is a methodology that emphasises the need to place the needs and expectations of rights holders at the centre of advocacy and project management. This approach is especially relevant to Syria where years of active hostilities have left millions of people deprived of their civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights. By bringing people and their rights into focus, CSOs ensure that their interventions do not just serve to acknowledge suffering or offer temporary relief to survivors, but instead address the root causes of these violations to ensure they do not happen again.