



التقرير اليومي الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Tuesday 18-10-2016

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"Action Group issued the English version of the documentary report "A Camp Under Arrest: Al-Aydeen Homs"



- Shelling and clashes rocking the Yarmouk refugee camp and al-Tadhamun neighborhood.
- Deraa refugee camp hit by mortar shells.
- Affidavits by ex-detainees on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syrian lock-ups.
- Turkey sets transit visa as prerequisite to let in Palestinians of Syria.

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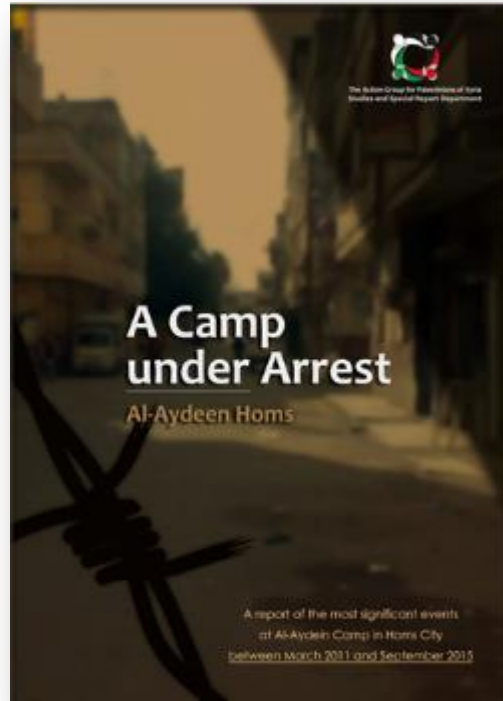
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AGPS

A documentary report conducted by the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) under the title “A Camp under Arrest: Al-Aydeen-Homs” kept a day-by-day record of the latest updates in Al-Aydeen refugee camp, in Syria’s western city of Homs, for the period from March 2011 to September 2015.

The report provides facts on the camp and keeps tabs on the impacts inflicted on its demographic and architectural character. It further documents the changes affecting refugees’ daily life and the calamities endured by those taking shelter at the camp. The report also provides statistic dataset on the number of casualties and detainees during the period under scrutiny.



AGPS wrapped up the report by reiterating the commitment of Palestinian refugees to a principle of non-interference as regards the internal conflict in war-ragged Syria, or any other Arab state.

AGPS said Palestinian refugees in Syria have been committed to their role as a dynamic of reassurance and appeasement rather than one of incitement.



According to AGPS, Palestinian refugees have fallen prey to the attempts of parties involved in the conflict to serve their own interests by striking at the legitimacy of the Palestinian refugee cause and to wipe out Palestinians' presence in Syria by drawing them in to ongoing warfare.

Such attempts unveil an imminent scheme of forced dislocation against Palestinian refugees in Syrian camps and an infringement of their right to return to their homeland—Palestine.

The report is, for the most part, rooted in on-the-spot data compiled by AGPS network of field correspondents, along with affidavits released by activists and academics at the camp.

The Arabic and English versions of report are available as follows:

Link to Arabic version:

actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/acamp_under_arrest.pdf

Link to English version:

actionpal.org.uk/en/reports/special/a_camp_under_arrest.pdf

Latest developments:

A round of airstrikes was launched by the Russian and Syrian military forces on Khan al-Shih camp. Over 16 explosive barrels were slammed into the main accessroad between Khan al-Shih camp and Zakia town. The attack makes part of underway attempts by the Syrian regime to seal off the road and slap a complete closure on the area.



At the same time, artillery shells rocked farmlands and towns adjacent to the Khan al-Shih camp.



Meanwhile, over 15,000 Palestinian refugees, along with a number of displaced Palestinian and Syrian families have been subjected to dire living conditions due to the tough blockade imposed by the Syrian regime forces. The latter have sealed off all accessroads into the capital Damascus before civilians dwelling in Zakia and Khan al-Sheih for 18 days in a row.

The blockade was imposed by the Syrian army right after they held sway over Dierkhabiya area and fenced off al-Zakia-Mokeleba thoroughfare using heavy machine gunfire. The closure resulted in acute shortages in food items, most notably flour and vegetables, among other vital foodstuff. Alarm bells have, subsequently, been sounded over an imminent humanitarian crisis awaiting the entire region around the corner.

The situation has been no less tragic in southern Damascus after the Syrian regime forces showered ISIS-controlled areas in the blockaded Yarmouk camp with mortar shells.



Torrential salvos by the Syrian regime also rocked al-Tadhamun neighborhood, adjacent to Yarmouk camp. Barrages of tank shells and projectiles were slammed into the area in an attempt, by the Syrian regime and its war allies, to break into the territory.

The Yarmouk camp has been grappling with a tough siege imposed by the pro-regime militias and Popular Front General Command. Daily crackdowns and violations by ISIS militias, who have grabbed hold of large tracts in the territory, have also turned life in the camp into a hell on earth. In the meantime, simmering clashes between ISIS and the Levant Front outfit have been ongoing.



Heading southwards, the Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees, in Southern Syria, sustained remarkable material damage after it was targeted with heavy spates of mortar shells. The situation has gone from bad to worse as the camp has been bereaved of health and relief services. No aids were dispatched to the camp for over a couple of years.

At least 70% of buildings in the camp sustained partial or total destruction as a result of the nonstop bombardment launched via missiles and explosive barrels.



In a related development, detainees recently released from Syrian lock-ups provided affidavits on their encounters with prisoners Yasser al-Mesri and Ahmad al-Benchi, both taking shelter in al-Raml refugee camp in Latakia, in al-Balouna prison in Homs.

Quoted by AGPS, the witnesses said they last fell upon the two detainees in April 2016.

According to affidavits released by local activists, the Palestinian youth Mahmoud al-Zeibaq, a resident of Muadamiyat al-Sham in Damascus suburbs, has been held for 13 days in an investigation center run by Brigade Four.

AGPS quoted ex-detainees as stating that they came across Palestinian refugees in regime penitentiaries. The witnesses recounted cases of refugees who were tortured to death in Syrian prisons.

Sworn affidavits amassed by AGPS testified to the psycho-physical torture perpetrated against refugees, including women, behind regime prison bars at a time when refugee families have voiced deep concern over the concealed fate of their jailed relatives. Up to the moment of writing, AGPS has kept record of a total of 1,112 Palestinian detainees in Syrian lock ups.

In another development, the Turkish government issued a decision stipulating a transit visa as a precondition to let Palestinian refugees in.

The decision implies that Palestinian refugees will have to submit an application for a visa at the embassy of their country of residence, in a



move that sets another stumbling block before Palestinian refugees' access out of and into Turkey after they fled war-torn Syria.

According to AGPS reporters, a number of Palestinian and Syrian refugee families have been detained by the Turkish authorities for overstaying their transit visas.

A Palestinian-Syrian family, previously taking refuge in Beirut, was arrested by the Turkish forces on its way to Denmark via Istanbul. The family was released afterwards following pressure from the Danish Embassy in Turkey. Another Palestinian-Syrian family was arrested in Turkey on way to Sudan.

The London-based AGPS documented cases of arbitrary delays of projected flights for Palestinian Syrian refugees heading to Europe via Turkish airports despite the fact that they had obtained leaves from Turkish authorities.

The Turkish government attributed the restrictions to an emerging ambiguity in handling the affair due to the absence of a travel-document-folder for the Palestinians among the travel procedures officially adopted by the country. Palestinian Syrians are not therefore treated as Syrians despite the fact that they hold Syrian identity documents. However, clinics and hospitals, along with unofficial authorities, consider them as Syrians.

Palestinians of Syria: October 17, 2016 Statistics

- *15,500 Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Jordan.*
- *42,500 Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Lebanon.*



<http://www.facebook.com/ActGroup.PalSyria>

- *6,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Egypt, according to statistics dataset by UNRWA covering the period from July 2015 backwards.*
- *8,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees in Turkey.*
- *1,000 Palestinian-Syrian refugees in the blockaded Gaza Strip.*
- *Over 79,000 Palestinian Syrian refugees fled to Europe until mid 2016.*
- *Yarmouk refugee camp has been blockaded by the Syrian regime army and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command PFLP-GC for 1,217 days in a row. Electricity and water supplies have been cut off, respectively, for 1,278 days and 737 days. The number of those killed due to the blockade has hit 190.*
- *Sbiena refugee camp: 1,070 refugees could not go back to their homes as a result of the blockade slapped by the Syrian regime.*
- *Handarat refugee camp: All refugees fled the camp since 1,262 days after opposition groups grabbed hold of the area.*
- *Deraa refugee camp: Power has been cut off for 920 consecutive days; 70% of buildings have been knocked down.*
- *Homs camp, Hama camp, Jaramana, al-Sayida Zeinab, Al-Raml refugee camps: State of relative calm; ongoing economic crises.*
- *Khan al-Shih refugee camp: All access roads to the camp have been closed off, except for the Zakia-Khan Al-Shih road.*