



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



"AGPS, PRC Brief UNHRC about Secret Detention of Palestine Refugees in Syria"

- Residents of Daraa Camp for Palestine Refugees Denounce Sanitation Crisis
- Director of Makeshift Clinic in Syria's Deir Ballout Camp Denies Suspension of Health Services
- UNRWA to Distribute 3rd Batch of 2019 Cash Aids for Palestinians in Syria

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Latest Developments

The London-based Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) and Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) addressed on Tuesday the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) over the situation of Palestinian refugees who have fallen prey to enforced disappearance across the embattled Syrian territories.

In a statement delivered as part of Agenda Item 4 of the council's 42nd regular session, kick-started in Geneva on September 9, AGPS Executive Director, Ahmad Hosain, said hundreds of families continue to appeal for information over the condition and whereabouts of their missing or secretly detained relatives in Syria.



Mr. Hosain cited the case of Palestinian refugee Mootaz Bakr, who is one among thousands of others who have been enduring mysterious fates in Syria's state-run prisons.

Quoting the appeals of Mootaz's wife and son, AGPS Executive Director said Mootaz was kidnapped on January 7, 2013, at a Syrian government checkpoint pitched near the Hums-based AlAyeddeen Camp for Palestine refugees, on his way to his workplace.



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The family's vulnerable situation in Syria has left them prey to blackmail and forced them to stoop to extortion by brokers and crooked lawyers, the family was further quoted as stating by Mr. Hosain.

Referring to data by AGPS, the group's delegate said up to 1,800 Palestine refugees have been secretly held behind Syria's prison bars, where 600 others have also been tortured to death

“Thousands of children continue to glimpse through the windows of hope, awaiting their parents, brothers, sisters, and siblings whom they have not seen for years and whose pictures are only present in frames hung on the walls of their ruined homes”, the concluding sentences of the statement read.

In another development, Palestinian families taking refuge in Daraa Camp, south of Syria, have lashed out at the local authorities for dragging their feet over the residents' appeals for rehabilitating infrastructure and sanitation networks.

The residents said that recently local authorities carried out maintenance works allegedly to repair sanitation networks, but the situation has not gone any better.





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The residents said the poor sanitation networks and improper sewage disposal, which they attributed to the frequent blackouts and inadequate maintenance works in the area, have brought about an acute damage to their health and property.

The displaced families warned of the serious repercussions of contaminated sewage and waste water which continue to flow into their refugee camp around the clock, saying serious measures should be taken with the advent of a wintery season.

Meanwhile, director of Melhem volunteer team in Syria, Abu Jomaa, also the director of the local clinic in Deir Ballout refugee camp, north of Syria, said reports that the clinic has gone inoperative are counterfeit.

According to Abu Jomaa, the medical team has been providing healthcare services to the concerned refugees. Four nurses, out of 10 formerly working in the clinic, have resigned after they received threats from a resident.



He stated that since midnight, 12 patients received treatment and medicines at the clinic, adding that despite the acute shortage in medical equipment and medicines, the staff members have been



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doing their best to assuage the calamitous conditions endured by civilians in Deir Ballout and AlMuhamamdiya refugee camps.

Abu Jomaa's statement came in response to reports circulated on social media network Facebook claiming that the sole makeshift clinic in Deir Ballout has gone out of operation and that medical supplies to the camp have been suspended since May 2019. The reports further claimed that seven to ten nurses working in the clinic have been receiving salaries from funds allotted to the health facility.

In the meantime, UNRWA announced its intent to distribute the third batch of its cash aids for Palestinians from Syria as of October 15, 2019.

Every single family member registered on the list of vulnerable cases will receive 27,000 Syrian Pounds, with an increase of 3,000 Syrian Pounds from last year. Other families figuring on "unspecified" lists will receive a sum of 17,000 Syrian Pounds.

After eight years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.