



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي 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



"Palestinian Refugee from Syria Detained in Qatar"

- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Succumbs to Coronavirus in Algeria
- UNRWA Apologizes over Delayed Aid Delivery for Palestinians of Syria
- US Framework for Cooperation Includes Tough Conditions on UNRWA Funding
- AGPS Calls on Palestinian Families to Report Cases of Enforced Disappearance, Torture in Syria

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Muhannad Tawfiq Shaarawi has been detained by the Qatari authorities for overstaying his touristic visa.

Muhannad told AGPS that he had entered Qatar last year after he received a grant from the Qatari Foreign Ministry through its embassy in Khartoum. Authorities have turned down his appeals for visa renewal.

The Qatari authorities ordered him to leave the country and go back after obtaining a new visa. “How on earth can I do this? My situation is very complicated”, said Muhannad. “My Palestinian-Authority-stamped passport and Syrian travel document do not enable me to freely enter and exit the country”.

The refugee appealed to the Qatari government, Palestinian embassy, and international human rights organizations to pressurize the Qatari authorities to release him from custody, work out his legal situation and backtrack on his deportation to war-ravaged Syria.

Syria remains unsafe for refugee returns. Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance continue to be among the most urgent challenges to human rights in Syria with tens of thousands detained in prisons, primarily by the Syrian government. The release of detainees and the disclosure of the fate and location of



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those forcibly disappeared in Syria are urgent priorities for Syrians and Syrian civil society.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mahmoud Hamdoush died of coronavirus in Sidi Faraj displacement camp in Algeria.

Speaking with AGPS, his relatives said he is the victim of medical neglect by Algerian authorities and the Algerian Red Crescent.

They added that Mahmoud was not transferred to an intensive care unit despite his family's appeals for urgent medical treatment after his health took a turn for the worse.

"We'll get back to you soon", medics told them after the family reached out to Red Crescent teams. The camp's supervisor also turned deaf ears to their appeals.

Mohammed died at a hospital to which he was transferred by his cash-stripped family. He did not, however, receive oxygen.

The brutal conflict in Syria has forced thousands of Palestinian refugees to flee the war-torn country in search of safer shelters.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) who have reached Algeria have been living in distress due to their squalid humanitarian conditions.

15 PRS families have been sheltered in Algeria's Sidi Faraj camp, near the capital city Algiers, where they have been denied access to the local labor market and to humanitarian aid.



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The Algerian authorities have failed to provide PRS with their UN-recognized rights as refugees fleeing war-stricken zones. The UNHCR also continues to turn its back on their appeals for emergency assistance.

The majority of PRS living in Sid Faraj camp have overstayed their visas. Algerian authorities have also suspended naturalization procedures for Algerian-born PRS and prevented scores of them from residence permits and property ownership.

Dozens of PRS families fled Sidi Faraj camp to European destinations after paying exorbitant sums to smugglers.

In the meantime, UNRWA has extended its apologies to Palestinian refugees from Syria over the delay in cash aid transfer.

In a statement issued on Sunday, UNRWA attributed the delay to financial issues and pledged to start cash aid delivery as of September 28 via Lebanon Post and in USD.

The refugees will receive their cash grants covering the months of August and September in one single batch. Cash aid covering October and November will be shelled out during the first week of November.

UNRWA said that in line with the World Food Programme's aid agenda, it will provide 25 USD to every registered refugee as a two-month food allowance. Another sum of 40 USD will be handed over to cancer-stricken Palestinian refugees from Syria and PRS with special needs.



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Along similar lines, on July 14, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration signed the "2021-2022 Framework for Cooperation with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The Framework includes multiple specific commitments regarding the Agency's ability to deliver effective and efficient aid to Palestinian refugees through strengthened accountability, transparency, and consistency with UN principles, including neutrality.

The document includes signs of prejudice and partiality that strike at the foundations of the Palestinian refugee status. It stipulates that Palestinian refugees who had received military training be excluded from UN assistance under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

The Framework states that the U.S. shares concerns with UNRWA "about the threat of terrorism, including within the context of the United States' firm commitment to counter terrorism, and conditions under section 301(c) on U.S. contributions for UNRWA".

The document sites section 301 (c) which states that: "No contributions by the United States shall be made to (UNRWA) except on the condition that (UNRWA) take all possible measures to assure that no part of the United States contribution shall be used to furnish assistance to any refugee who is receiving military training as a member of the so-called Palestine Liberation Army or



any other guerilla-type organization or who has engaged in any act of terrorism.”

The reference to section 301 (c) implicitly denies the right of Palestinian refugees who were forced into involuntary military conscription to humanitarian aid. In Syria, Palestinian refugee youths are forced to serve in pro-regime militias for a defined time-span.

The US-drafted framework seeks to depoliticize the Palestinian refugee cause as no single reference is made to the right of return or the historical context of the issue. The document rather lays utmost emphasis on the US conditions to resume funding to the UNRWA, which gives the impression of guardianship or tutelage at a time when UNRWA struggles to keep its programmes running and delivering much needed assistance to vulnerable and marginalized Palestinian refugee communities.

The agreement will also give way to ineligible parties to inspect and manipulate the agency’s data and the refugee’s personal information in favor of pro-Israel agendas.

The document states that UNRWA staff should abide by the Agency-wide approach to neutrality and should not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature. It also calls for staff members and personnel to follow the neutrality requirements including guidelines on the use of social media. Such tough, however unclear and shallowly-defined, requirements violate personal freedoms, most notably the freedom of expression and political affiliations.



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In another development, AGPS calls on Palestinian families to register the names of their relatives who have been detained, missing, or killed in war-torn Syria on the group's official website.

Families wishing to report any authentic pieces of information regarding a missing, detained, or dead relative should go to the following link: actionpal.org.uk/en/reported_victim.php.

Lists of hundreds of forcibly disappeared Palestinian refugees and victims in Syria are available on AGPS website, both in English and Arabic. AGPS supplies a database of their names and possible times and places of arrest.

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,797 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups. Some 332 refugees have also gone missing in the country.

AGPS data indicates that 4,047 Palestinian refugees from Syria have died of war-related incidents.

AGPS is a human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. AGPS has conducted over 3,350 daily reports documenting the situation of the Palestinians of Syria. The reports are available on the group's website both in English and Arabic: www.actionpal.org.uk.

Other material, including videos, live snapshots, statistics on the number of casualties and detainees, news articles, and press releases also figure on the website.