



## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية  
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### **AGPS Denies Syrian Regime Intends to Release Palestinian Refugees**

- **Palestinian Refugees Concerned over Forced Deportation from Egypt**
- **Retail Centre Opened in Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian Refugees**
- **Palestinian-Turkish Association Launches Educational Initiative in Northern Syria Displacement Camps**



## **Latest Development**

Despite the recent decree issued by Syria's president Bashar AlAsad giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022, the Syrian regime has not confirmed its intention to include Palestinian prisoners in the general pardon.

The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.

AGPS urges the Syrian regime to issue an official statement in order to clarify to prisoners' families and human rights organizations whether it plans to include Palestinians in the pardon.

Palestinian Refugees Portal website said there are 2,389 Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons, most of them were arrested between 2012 and 2014.

The website called on the Palestinian Authority, Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Palestine Embassy in Damascus to follow up on the situation and pressurize the Syrian regime to reveal information about the detainees' condition and whereabouts.

A few days earlier, Syrian military judge Ahmed Tozan told Sham FM radio station that the recently issued presidential amnesty decree includes Syrians exclusively, in accordance with the Syrian Nationality Law. Palestinians or any other nationalities are excluded from the pardon.



“I am the mother of a Palestinian refugee who was arrested in 2013, when he was aged 16. I call on the Syrian regime to update me about the condition and whereabouts of my son, especially following reports that the amnesty excludes Palestinian refugees”, a mother told AGPS.

She called on embassy staff and the PLO to take serious steps in order to identify the fate of her forcibly-disappeared son.

Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad’s government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

In another development, Palestinians from Syria in Egypt said the Egyptian authorities earmarked their passports and travel documents with a refoulement stamp.

A number of refugees told AGPS that elementary and high schools asked them to renew their children’s visas as a necessary procedure before they were told by authorities that they will be deported. Some of them had their passports marked with a refoulement stamp.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a volatile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.



AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to enhance their legal status.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Trade Corporation opened a consumer retail center in Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

The centre contains a device for stamping smart cards and delivering much-needed rationed items.

The centre will be operative starting May 22.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the ten-year warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.



Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

In the meantime, Khayra Ummah organization launched an educational drive in favour of displaced children sheltered in northern Syria displacement camps.

The organization will provide teacher training courses in an attempt to enhance academic output in northern Syria.

Displaced Palestinian families north of Syria continue to sound the alarm over their children's lack of access to education as a result of the protracted displacement they have been subjected to.

Private schools established in the area are made up of poorly equipped tents that are not fit to study in and risk to fall into pieces in the winter season. Neither professional training staff nor proper furniture are available at the school.