



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

21-06-2020

No. 2798

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



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PRESS RELEASE

On World Refugee Day, AGPS Raises Alarm Bells over Situation of Palestinian Refugees in War-Torn Syria

- Palestinians from Syria Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance
- Vigil Held in Gaza over Squalid Condition of Syria Returnees
- Palestinian Refugee Yusuf Kubra Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jail for 8th Year

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Latest developments

On the World Refugee Day, observed on June 20 every year, Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to face a calamitous situation both inside and outside the embattled Syrian territories.

The Syrian conflict has had disastrous fallouts on the Palestinian refugee community in the country, with over 260,000 refugees internally displaced at least once during the war.

Thousands have, meanwhile, been living below the poverty line, lost their sources of incomes, and have become dependent on UNRWA's sporadic aids. Hundreds of families fled to neighboring countries and European destinations, risking their lives onboard the so-called "death boats".

AGPS kept record of the death of 4,048 Palestinian refugees due to war-related incidents, including shelling, blasts, fatal torture in jail, or on the migration route.

At the same time, as many as 1,779 men, women, and minors have been secretly locked up in state-run prisons after they were kidnapped from refugee camps and shelters across the Syrian territories.

AGPS strongly condemns the violations perpetrated against Palestinian refugees in Syria and the infringements of their basic human rights, in violation of the international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



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AGPS calls on all warring parties to keep the refugees at bay from the bloody hostilities and military calculations.

The Syrian government should disclose the whereabouts and condition of all detainees and ensure they are fairly trialed and humanly treated while in custody.

All concerned authorities should combine forces so as to reconstruct destroyed Palestinian refugee camps. Serious steps should be made by UNRWA in order to rehabilitate the refugees' psycho-physical protection and enhance their living conditions in northern Syria and other zones, including Lebanon and Jordan.

In another development, Palestinian refugees and activists have urged UNRWA to increase its cash aid to Palestine refugees and provide them with urgent cash and in-kind items.

In posts circulated on social media network Facebook, activists said prices and house rents have seen a tenfold rise over recent years, exacerbating the situation of the cash-stripped families.

The refugees called for providing them with the needed medicines and medical kit along with food aid and children's milk and diapers.

The situation has been exacerbated by the sanctions implemented by the US as part of the so-called "Caesar Act" targeting anyone doing business with the Assad regime, including in opposition-held zones.



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The load of new economic and travel sanctions also target non-Syrians who do business with the Assad regime.

The sanctions are the result of legislation known as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, named after the pseudonym of a Syrian who worked with the military police and turned over photographs of thousands of victims of torture by al-Assad's government.

The implementation of the sanctions has led to a further deterioration of the exchange rate of the Syrian pound, resulting in a worse economic situation for vulnerable families whose sole sources of income have been already affected by the bloody warfare.

Nine years into the deadly conflict, the majority of Palestinian refugees continue to live below the poverty line in Syria and are food insecure.

Along similar lines, the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinians from Syria in Gaza has called for a mass participation in a vigil staged on Sunday outside of UNRWA's office in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The committee urged UNRWA to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the returnees who have been facing abject poverty in the enclave.



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The committee said Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Gaza continue to face a dire humanitarian condition due to the high rates of unemployment and poverty.

The committee called on the Agency to provide PRS with decent shelters and create labor opportunities in order to help them provide for their impoverished families.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that



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deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Yusuf AlKubra, a resident of AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, has been secretly detained in Syrian government prisons for the 8th consecutive year.

Yusuf, affiliated with the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, was arrested near Damascus old gate of AlSharki, on August 15, 2012.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, among them dozens of women and girls.