



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

21-09-2019

No. 2813

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Displaced Palestinian Refugees in Jordan's AlHadiqa Camp Launch Cry for Help"

- Awareness-Raising Campaign on Explosive Remnants of War Held in Syria's Handarat Camp for Palestine Refugees
- 36 Palestinian Residents of AlSayeda Zeinab Camp Secretly Held in Syrian Jails
- AGPS Continues to Monitor Situation of Palestinians in/from War-Torn Syria

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Latest Developments

Palestinian families from Syria in AlHadiqa refugee camp, in Ar-Ramtha city, situated in the far northwest of Jordan, have called on the international humanitarian institutions, UNRWA, and the Palestinian Authority to take urgent action in response to the squalid conditions they have been enduring in the camp.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, a displaced Palestinian woman from Syria said the humanitarian situation has taken a tragic turn for the worse, adding that the refugees' needs far outlive the 85 Jordanian dinars handed over to them by UNRWA every three or four months.



The refugee also said the food allowances occasionally distributed by the UNHCR are insufficient.

She further raised alarm bells over the poor healthcare services provided by the sole doctor in the camp, saying neither medicines nor medical equipment are available in the area.

Some 40 Palestinian families and dozens of Syrian families taking refuge in AlHadiqa Camp have been subjected to abject socio-



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economic conditions owing to the absence of vital services and the crackdowns perpetrated by the Jordanian authorities.

Palestinian refugees from Syria taking shelter in AlHadiqa refugee camp are also denied free access out of and into the area. In the best of cases, they are granted a three to four-day work permit to feed their starved families.

100% of Palestine refugee families from Syria (PRS) in Jordan need to receive one or more UNRWA emergency assistance interventions especially during winter.

In its 2019 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal, UNRWA said 30% of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) are highly vulnerable and 31% of recorded PRS are members of female-headed households, which increases their vulnerability.

Due to new arrivals and natural population growth, the number of PRS recorded with the UNRWA in Jordan increased from 16,779 individuals in October 2017 to 17,719 at the end of October 2018.

PRS who have entered from Syria and remain in Jordan irregularly are living under continuous risk of arrest, detention and potential for forced return to Syria. Their lack of legal status and corresponding protection risks in Jordan are a source of major concern to UNRWA.

After eight years of conflict, Palestinian refugees in and from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services,



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and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the lives of civilians and severely undermined coping mechanisms.

In another development, volunteers from the Syrian Red Crescent Society embarked on an awareness campaign on the dangers of landmines to students in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo.

The campaign seeks to educate school children on how to correctly identify, avoid and report landmines as well as suspected improvised explosive devices, so as to prevent further casualties and indiscriminate damages and injury caused by these explosive devices. It also informs students of warning signs to identify high-risk areas and relayed ways on how to report to the concerned authorities to safely dispose of the landmines.



Over recent years, residents of Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, have voiced deep concern over their children's safety due to the spread of unexploded war remnants across and around the camp.

On August 21, a Palestinian child was pronounced dead after a cluster munition went Off in Syria's Handarat Camp. The casualty—Shaifq Yakoob—succumbed to the wounds he sustained



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in the blast while he was playing outdoors. He was rushed to a hospital, but breathed his last shortly after.

Hundreds of the internationally-prohibited cluster grenades have been detected in Handarat Camp due to the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian and Russian fighter jets on the shelter.

Available data from the International Committee of the Red Cross, indicate that each year, large numbers of civilians are killed and injured by explosive remnants of war, such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict.

For civilians and communities in war-affected Syria, the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Many innocent civilians, including Palestinian refugees, have lost their lives and limbs by disturbing or inadvertently coming into contact with explosive remnants of war. These weapons have also hindered reconstruction and threatened economic livelihood. Houses, hospitals and schools cannot be rebuilt until such weapons are cleared.

Local communities often have no means of dealing with the problem themselves. Most do not have the technical capacity or the resources to clear explosive remnants of war safely and few have the resources needed to deal with the psychological, medical and rehabilitative needs of victims.

Meanwhile, AGPS kept record of the secret detention of 36 Palestinian refugees sheltered in Syria's AlSayeda Zeinab Camp from March 2011 until mid-September 2019.



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According to AGPS statistics, five Palestinians who had sought refuge in the camp were fatally tortured in Syria's government prisons, where a total of at least 607 Palestinians also died under torture.

AGPS has documented the incarceration of 1,768 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state-run penal complexes.

AGPS believes that the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian authorities on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the refugee families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.

Activists continue to accuse pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run



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dungeons, release the bodies of those tortured to death, seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

Along the same line, AGPS continues to monitor the calamitous condition of Palestinian refugees in and from war-torn Syria and the human rights violations they have been facing both inside and outside of the Syrian territories.

AGPS has conducted over 2,510 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.

AGPS material provides thorough data on the daily violations, death toll, and number of detainees in war-torn Syria. It also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in refugee camps across and outside of the embattled Syrian territories.

The provided data is the by-product of joint efforts made by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers, and researchers.

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS team does its best to uphold the finest



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standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footages, and sworn affidavits are taken directly from the fighting scene across a myriad of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS role as a leading human rights overseer.