



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, Her Children Forcibly Disappeared Upon Return to Syria"

- Palestinians Strongly Condemn US-UNRWA Framework for Cooperation
- Palestinian Refugee Released from Syrian Prison
- Palestinian Mother Fatma AlSaadi and Her Daughter Rasha Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 8th Year
- Sweden to Invalidate Visas of Migrant Returnees

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## Latest Developments

Tension has been running high in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, following reports about the abduction of a woman and her children who returned from Lebanon.

The family told AGPS that they had suddenly lost contact with their relative shortly after she entered the Syrian territories. They received an overnight phone call confirming her abduction.

The kidnappers said they will only release her on an arson of 3,000 USD.

Earlier this year, members of the Dutch Parliament said refugees from Syria should not be forced to return to the war-torn country.

Dutch MPs dubbed Syria an “unsafe zone” and said a detailed report about the security threats in Syria will be issued by the Dutch Foreign Ministry sometime soon.

On Thursday, 11 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Syrian conflict – 10 years after the uprising, by a large majority of votes; 568 for, 79 against, and 37 abstentions.

In the resolution, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) reminded the international community of the gravity and magnitude of human rights violations in Syria, perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including killings, detention, enforced



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disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence and rape, displacement, ethnic cleansing, persecution of minorities, and a dire humanitarian crisis.

MEPs called on the Syrian regime to immediately release the 130,000 political prisoners detained, including women, men and children forcibly disappeared. In this respect, MEPs urged the European Union (EU) and Member States to facilitate the creation of an independent mechanism with an international mandate and a victim-led approach to locate the missing or their remains, including those found in mass graves. This call is based on the recommendation made by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria in its March 2021 report, echoed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Joseph Borrell, and Syrian civil society.

“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 those forcibly disappeared in Syria are urgent priorities for Syrians and Syrian civil society. It is crucial to realizing justice, accountability, and redress for victims and their families,” said Elizabeth Rghebi, Levant Researcher at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS).

In another development, Palestinian factions and pro-Palestine NGOs have expressed their protest at the “2021-2022 Framework for Cooperation with the UN Relief and Works Agency for



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Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)” signed by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration on July 14.

NGOs said a close reading of the Framework shows how it unravels its biased and dangerous implications on the Palestinian refugee cause.

They said the Framework claims that it includes multiple specific commitments to advance the Agency’s ability to deliver effective and efficient aid to Palestinian refugees, it, however, signals a reawakening of the US pro-Israel policy which seeks to liquidate the Palestinian refugee cause, deny Palestinians’ refugee status, and relocate them outside their homeland.

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.

Human rights watchdogs said the real danger of the document is that it seeks to normalize a de-historicized definition of the Palestinian refugee status that might be adopted by other international organizations seeking to gradually undermine the historical and moral idiosyncrasies of the definition.

They have warned that 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.



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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.

Reports have linked the pressure exerted on the UN Agency to the U.S. practice of linking aid to its foreign policy goals or pressure on human rights issues.

Activists said the fact that the Framework confesses that it does not constitute an international agreement and is legally non-binding is tantamount to an attempt to dodge international responsibility for any damages resulting from this agreement.

Pro-Palestine bodies and activists have called for serious action by UNRWA and the international community to disclose the malevolent intentions and unilateral nature of the agreement along with the ferocious politically-motivated campaigns that seek to ultimately erase the right of return of over 7 million Palestine refugees.

Meanwhile, Syrian security forces released a resident of the Palestinian refugee camp of Khan Eshieh, in Rif Dimashq province, after they held him in prison for nearly two years and a half.

An AGPS news correspondent said the ex-prisoner was arrested due to his brother's alleged affiliations with opposition groups. His brother was killed in Syria shootouts.



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The refugee's name is kept secret by AGPS over security concerns as he was arrested for the 2

time since the retreat of opposition groups from Khan Eshieh Camp.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Fatma Ahmed AlSaadi, born on January 27, 1956, and her daughter Rasha Sai'd AlSaadi, born on July 08, 1983, have been secretly held in Syrian regime prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

The mother and her daughter were arrested in 2013 by Syrian security forces deployed at a checkpoint in Yarmouk Camp.

Their relatives were told that they are held at the Palestine Branch prison. Rasha has not seen her four children ever since.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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



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Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In another development, Swedish authorities said they plan to take new action against refugees who live in Sweden and hold residency permits and then go to visit their home country.

Maria Malmer Stenergard, the Conservative Party's immigration policy spokeswoman, made the announcement in an interview with local Radio Echot.

“The party wants to facilitate the withdrawal of residency permits in Sweden. As one example, this would apply to people who have received the right of protection in Sweden and then visits their home country,” the Swedish official said.

Stenergard called on the Swedish official to “withdraw residency permits from the people who [visit their home countries].”

“If one chooses to return and spend the holiday in the country from which one has sought protection, it may indicate that the reasons for the protection request mentioned earlier do not exist,” she said.

“I think this also raises questions about whether we are granting residency permits to the right people.”

Syrian media's sources living in Sweden confirmed the validity of Sweden's plans related to refugees on its territory.

Several Syrian refugees in Europe expressed solidarity with this decision and the withdrawal of residency permits from those



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heading to regime-controlled areas, which they claimed to have fled from in order to escape murder and beatings.

Others wished that the resolution would target the “shabiha” (thugs) of the Syrian regime and its supporters, who arrived in Europe under flimsy pretexts.