



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Spotted in Syria's Military Prison"

- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Bobali Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 9th Year
- Coronavirus Case Reported in Deir Ballout Camp
- UNRWA Delegation Shows Up in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees Struggling With Dire Conditions on Leros Island

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Latest Developments

Two Palestinian refugees are locked up in isolated cells in the Syrian military prison of Sednaya.

The refugees are Samir Ahmad Ashmawi and Wael Tawfiq Jebali. Their families continue to appeal for information about their condition.

Last year, the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP) stated in its first report, entitled “Sednaya Prison: Factory of death and enforced disappearance in Syria”, that inmates have been tortured to death in the highly-secretive penal complex.

The report monitored the procedures and consequences of detention in Sednaya Prison in Syria, which the Assad regime continues to use as a main centre for the detention and enforced disappearance of political detainees, denying them any contact with the outside world and subjecting them to poor conditions that often lead to death.

The report stated that the Syrian regime itself is unable to issue accurate lists of the numbers of detainees due to the numerous victims of extrajudicial executions, torture, starvation, deprivation, and medical neglect. The report also

The ADMSP identified 24 types of psychological torture which included mock executions, being forced to watch other inmates being tortured, and threats against prisoners' families.



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Every former prisoner interviewed reported to have been beaten with sticks of batons in Sednaya, with 20 forms of torture identified, often resulting in the death of the inmates.

Almost all reported being whipped or beaten while trapped inside a tire, with other forms of torture including being suspended from the arms, electrocution, and the "German chair", which sees inmates tied around a chair with pressure applied.

Sexual abuse has also significantly increased under the Assad regime, with around a third of detainees admitted to have suffered from this form of torture at Sednaya.

Few inmates expect to emerge from Syria's Sednaya prison alive, a place where routine torture and inhumane living conditions are, obviously, all designed to break the hope and dignity of prisoners, according to human rights groups.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Yehya AlBobali, from AlRaml camp in Latakia, has been enduring a mysterious fate since August 15, 2011.

The Syrian authorities continue to withhold information about his condition and whereabouts.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government jails, among them 110 women and girls.

In another development, a 37-year-old resident of the displacement camp of Deir Ballout, in the northern Syrian region



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of Efrin, has tested positive for COVID-19, in the first such case reported in the camp.

A few days earlier, displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking shelter in Deir Ballout camp called on the Turkish authorities and AFAD to reopen the local clinic run by MELHEM volunteer group.

The clinic has been closed for a week following a decision issued by the Health Directorate in Ghusn AlZaytoun.

Recently, a state of panic has overwhelmed the Palestinian refugee community taking shelter in war-torn Syria following reports of increased coronavirus cases in and around Damascus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities means displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Meanwhile, representatives of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to inspect vital services in the area.

Led by UNRWA's director of Syria operations, Michael Amaniya, and GAPAR's Mahmoud Abu Khreish, the delegation toured the



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camp and assessed the residents' access to vital facilities along with their present and future needs.

Education chief Walid AlKurdi quoted GAPAR's representative as calling for speeding up reconstruction works, particularly reconstruction of schools.

Scores of stranded Palestinian families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Along similar lines, Palestinian asylum seekers taking shelter on the Greek island of Leros have been subjected to an exacerbated humanitarian situation due to the absence of vital services, including health care, housing, relief assistance, and power and water.



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The refugees continue to call on the international human rights organizations to take urgent action in response to their appeals.

Some 163 Palestinians from Syria are taking shelter in a refugee camp set up in Leros Island.

The refugees compare the camp to an open-air prison, saying their tents have been engulfed with barbed wire that blocks access out of and into the area.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards near the borders.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover in such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas in Greece.