



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



### "2 Palestinian Refugees Appeal for Release from Greek Custody"

- Palestinian Refugees in Deir Ballout Camp Struggling for Survival
- 98 Palestinian Residents of AlNeirab Camp Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons
- Humanitarian Condition Exacerbated by Transportation Crisis in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- UNRWA: Reconstruction of Education Premises in Deraa Camp Priority

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

Two Palestinian refugees from Syria—Yaser Faour and Muamar Yousef Murad, born in 1967 and raised in Yarmouk Camp—have appealed to the international human rights organizations to broker their release from a prison in Athens, where they have been held for nearly one year over allegations of assaulting Greek police and attempting to burn state property.

AGPS reached out to both refugees. Yaser said he illegally entered Greece through Turkey on May 20, 2018. He had sought shelter in Moria refugee camp on Lesbos Island. Two months later, an altercation burst out between Arab and Afghani migrants while he was outside the camp.

As tensions soared, police troops showed up in the camp and showered refugee tents with teargas grenades. At the time, Yasser and a group of migrant youths rushed to the camp to evacuate women and children through the barbed wire. Four hours later, the police unlocked the entrance gates, allowing the refugees' access out of the camp. However soon after, policemen fired teargas once again and arrested Yasser and two other Palestinian refugees, one of them was formerly sheltered in Yarmouk Camp and the other from the blockaded Gaza Strip.

“We were exhaustively interrogated by the police. However, our testimonies were later changed in the court and we were made to sign documents which we could not translate. Five charges were slapped against us, including incitement, attempted arsons against



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state property, assaulting police, and defamation of public institutions”, said Yasser.

Yasser and the two other arrestees were taken to Athens. Release appeals filed by their attorneys were rebuffed, pending another court hearing.

Fa’our stayed for two years in Libya and four years in Lebanon, after he fled Yarmouk Camp, in war-torn Syria. He later entered Turkey through Kurdistan and spent 10 months in the country, before he embarked on a life-threatening Greece-bound journey.

Over recent years, Yasser volunteered at human rights associations and humanitarian charities. He had launched a theatre training project and a psychological support program for youths in Moria camp, before he was ultimately sent to jail.

“When we reached out to the Palestinian Embassy we’d been told that there is nothing they could do for us as they are only tasked with issuing required documents”, Muamar told AGPS.

Palestinian refugees from Syria who have been stranded in Greece continue to sound distress signals after most European states opted for a closed-door immigration policy, leaving hundreds of refugees trapped in underequipped makeshift refugee camps.

Along similar lines, hundreds of displaced Palestinian families taking refuge in northern Syria continue to raise concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has been just around the corner.



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The families continue to lash out at the apathy maintained by UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and all other local and international bodies regarding their tragic situation.

Displaced families said they have received neither firewood nor fuel for over two months, saying a kilogram of firewood has reached 250 Syrian pounds.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Last year, tents have been flooded with water as torrential downpours have swamped Palestinian refugee camps in Afrin, north of Syria.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media showed dozens of tents as being swamped by rain deluges while children appear to be shivering of cold.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

In another development, AGPS documented the secret detention of 98 Palestinian refugees living in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, from March 2011 until mid-December 2020.



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A number of Palestinians who had sought refuge in the camp were also fatally tortured in Syria's government prisons.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of over 1,790 Palestinian refugees in Syria's 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 have accused 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 dungeons, release the bodies of those tortured to death, seriously



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work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

Meanwhile, students and parents at AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to secure transportation means to give daily lifts to the local university due to overcrowding and unpunctuality in public means of transport.

The residents called for the need to secure buses to transfer students to and back from their academic institutions, saying schoolchildren and students have been forced to pay 200 Syrian pounds instead of the 100 pounds imposed by local authorities.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlNeirab Camp continue to sound distress signals over the high rates of unemployment, water and power outages, along with the absence of health care and vital items, particularly fuel and gas.

In the meantime, Director of UNRWA affairs in Syria Amanyah Michael-Ebye said reconstruction premises run by the Agency in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, has been placed on top of UNRWA's agenda for 2021.

This came during a meeting with UNRWA staffers, during which Amanyah briefed them about the financial crisis faced by UNRWA.



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Amanya honored Salim AlSheikh Kasem, who was in charge of UNRWA office in the southern region and who retired in December after 38 years of dedicated work.

Amanya also met with the governor of Deraa province, Marwan Sharbak. The latter pledged to cooperate with UNRWA so as to enhance services for Palestinian refugees.

All the way through Syria's nine-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

Civilians continue to sound distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare.

UN data indicates that Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned



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since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.