



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



"Palestinians in Syria's Deir Ballout Camp Appeal for Humanitarian Asylum"

- PLO Envoy: Yarmouk Camp to Be Rehabilitated Soon
- Palestinian Refugees Launch Cry for Help from Greece's Kastoria Island
- 98 Palestinian Residents of AlNeirab Camp Enduring Mysterious Fate in Syrian Jails

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Latest Developments

A vigil has been held by dozens of displaced Palestinian families sheltered in northern Syria to demand humanitarian asylum and safe access to European countries pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

The displaced Palestinian families have railed against their tragic living conditions in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp, saying their humanitarian situation has taken a serious turn for the worse.

The refugees leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization, along with other concerned NGOs, for failing to live up to their responsibilities as regards dozens of hopeless families taking shelter in Deir Ballout Camp.



The families called for the need to provide them with much-needed cash/in-kind aids, medical items, and relief services. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Along the same line, Director-General of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said there have been “hope-jerking promises”



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by the Syrian government regarding the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp for Palestine refugees, in Damascus.

In a speech delivered in the presence of popular committees and civilians in Yarmouk Camp, Abdul Hadi said reconstruction plans for Damascus governorate are to be finalized in the near future.



On Friday, Abdul Hadi met with some 50 Palestinians and Syrians taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp along with representatives of the local popular committee.

In May, Abdul Hadi said the families' return to their homes remained indefinite, adding that several buildings were uninhabitable and risked to collapse at any possible moment.

Most of Palestinian families taking shelter south of Damascus fled Yarmouk as a result of the tough blockade imposed by the government troops and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command, and also after ISIS grabbed hold of the camp on April 1, 2015.

Scores of other stranded 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



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Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following the military 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 in the warfare.

A few months earlier, 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.

Meanwhile, dozens of Palestine refugees who fled the relentless Syrian warfare to the remote northwestern Greek island of Kastoria said their children have failed to set foot in local schools and to be admitted in local hospitals for treatment.





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Taking refuge in faraway shelters funded by the International Organization of Migration (IOF) on Kastoria Island, some 70 Palestinian migrants have to walk for miles everyday to reach the city center. Kastoria is a small and quiet island in northern Greece, built on a peninsula on Lake Orestiada at about 700 meters above sea level and at a distance of 24 kilometers from Albanian borders.

Tens of thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees have flooded across the Mediterranean and into Greece over the past few years, counting on being relocated elsewhere in Europe as part of an E.U. plan to redistribute the asylum seekers to lighten the burden on the countries at the front lines of Europe's migrant crisis.

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

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.

In the meantime, AGPS documented the secret detention of 98 Palestinian refugees living in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, from March 2011 until mid-September 2019.

A number of Palestinians who had sought refuge in the camp were also 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.



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