



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 Released by Syria Opposition Group after 3 Years"**

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Struggling for Survival
- Street Sellers Swamp AlNeirab Refugee Camp
- Civilians' Life Threatened by Motorbike Riders in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- HRW Urges Denmark to Revise Its Decisions on Syria Refugees

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## Latest Developments

Tahrir AlSham Commission in the northern Syrian province of Idlib released on April 21 the Palestinian refugee Mohamed Mahmoud Khalil, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, after they kept him captive for three years.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syria, mostly in state-run penal complexes.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 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 Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In another development, street beggars have increasingly been spotted in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, where humanitarian conditions have been squalid.

Parents have also raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among schoolchildren and university students, several among whom left their academic institutions to



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help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have lost their jobs in the warfare and hundreds more have been wondering in the streets as they rummage around for livelihoods to feed their starved families.

The crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of the 540,000 PRS are unable to meet their basic needs.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Meanwhile, residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees said main access roads have been crammed with street stalls.

The phenomenon sparked controversial responses in an area that has been gripped with multiple hardships due to the ten-year conflict.



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AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In the meantime, residents of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees continue to rail against the uncontrolled use of motorcycles, a phenomenon they said poses serious threats to the lives of their children.





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The residents said several horrific accidents took place due to inappropriate speed and infringement of road safety rules across residential alleyways.

They called on the concerned authorities and CSOs to take urgent steps in response to such a life-threatening phenomenon.

In another development, Human Rights Watch (HRW) strongly condemned the Danish government's decision to remove "temporary protection" for Syrian refugees from Damascus.

In a joint letter, analysts, researchers, and other experts on the Syrian context, said the Danish decision "used our testimonies to the Danish Immigration Service for a country of origin (COI) report on Damascus, but we do not recognize our views in subsequent government conclusions or policies, and neither do we consider that Denmark's Syrian refugee policy fully reflects the real conditions on the ground".

The letter urged the Danish government to revise its conclusions on Damascus to better reflect the ongoing risks posed to potential returnees, and to amend its current refugee policies accordingly.

"We believe that conditions do not presently exist anywhere in Syria for safe returns and any return must be voluntary, safe, and dignified, as the EU and UNHCR have clearly stated", it said. "We call on Danish authorities to abide by the position outlined in last month's European Parliament resolution, which: 'Reminds all Member States that Syria is not a safe country to return to; believes that any return should be safe, voluntary, dignified and informed,



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in line with the EU’s stated position; calls on all EU Member States to refrain from shifting national policies towards depriving certain categories of Syrians of their protected status, and to reverse this trend if they have already applied such policies.”

In 2019, Danish authorities officially reclassified Damascus as “safe” in its COI report concerning conditions in Damascus and Rural Damascus.

By reclassifying Damascus as safe, Danish authorities ultimately ruled that refugees originating from the Syrian capital who had sought asylum and received subsidiary protection in Denmark could, in the future, have their temporary residency permits discontinued. As a result, last month (March 2021), the Danish government informed 94 Syrian refugees in the country that they would not have their residency permits renewed.

HRW added that Damascus may not have seen active conflict hostilities since May 2018 – but that does not mean that it has become safe for refugees to return to the Syrian capital. Many of the key drivers of displacement from Syria remain, as the majority of refugees fled, and continue to fear, the government’s security apparatus, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, military conscription, and harassment and discrimination.

“The Syrian government, and its security apparatus, have consistently persecuted those who have expressed dissent or shown opposition, including through arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of critics and their relatives. Despite amnesties



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and declarations to the contrary, the Syrian government has yet to demonstrate any change in its conduct”, added the researchers.

“Even where individuals have obtained guarantees of safety from the government, abuses have followed. There is a risk to anyone who fled the country or spoke out against the government, actions perceived as disloyalty, which may result in their being treated with suspicion, punishment, or arbitrary detention”, the letter further read.

It further referred to the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian conditions in and around Damascus, which are such that they have produced new and worsening protection risks which do not correspond with a safe, dignified, and voluntary return.