



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 Ahmad Khamis Detained in Syria Shortly after Release"

- Youth Event Held in Damascus to Speak Up against US-Led Bahrain Conference
- 1st Phase of Sanitation Repair Project Carried Out in AlDhiabiya, AlHusainiya
- Palestinian Refugee Wins 1st Place in Hums Bodybuilding Championship

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian ex-prisoner Ahmad Khamis who had been released from Israeli jails as part of an Israel-Russian swap deal was re-arrested by Syrian security forces.

Informed sources told AGPS that Khamis has been subjected to exhaustive interrogation by Syrian intelligence officers after he was transferred from an Israeli jail to Syria via Red Cross staff.

The Syrian government forces kept him in custody at Palestine Branch 235. His condition has been unknown.

Khamis, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, was released from Israeli jails a few months earlier and was taken back to Syria, in what media sources described as Russian-mediated reciprocation for the repatriation of the body of the long-missing Israeli soldier Zachary Baumel.



Khamis was kidnapped in April 2005, allegedly after he attempted to creep into an Israeli military base and carry out an anti-



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occupation operation in the occupied Golan Heights. He was sentenced to 18 years in jail and spent 14 years of the term.

Israeli news outlets reported that Ahmed wished to be sent to the Palestinian city of AlKhalil, where he was supposed to marry his partner.

An Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity said at the time that Israel agreed to release the prisoner as a "goodwill gesture" after the return of the remains of Zachary Baumel earlier this month.

Israel's military announced on 3 April that Baumel's remains, missing since the 1982 Lebanon war, had been returned, bringing to a close a highly sensitive case for Israelis.

The announcement came less than a week before hotly contested Israeli elections, which saw Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu win a fifth term in office.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a visit by Netanyahu that the remains had been found by the Russian and Syrian armies, in a context where Moscow has a military presence in Syria to support President Bashar AlAssad.

But Syrian Information Minister Imad Sara said on 4 April that Damascus had no knowledge of plans to repatriate the remains, nor was it aware of the details behind the discovery of the body and its subsequent transfer.



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In another development, a Palestinian youth gathering was held a couple of days earlier in Damascus in response to the projected White House-led economic workshop set to be held in Bahrain and the US President Donald Trump's "Mideast peace deal", known as the "deal of the century".

Youth and student NGOs called for a systematic boycott of the Bahrain workshop, which they said represents a stab in Palestinians' back and only serves to prop up the US-Israel attempts to wipe out the refugees' right of return.



They further underscored the need for the Palestinians to pool resources, boost national unity, cease security coordination between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and deactivate the notorious Oslo accords.

The US-led workshop, which will be held in Bahrain's capital, Manama, on June 25-26, has drawn criticism from the Palestinians who say US President Donald Trump's peace plan is likely to be heavily weighed in favor of Israel and quash their aspirations for statehood in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.



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While the precise outlines of Trump's draft plan - which he has branded the "deal of the century" - have yet to be revealed, Palestinian and Arab sources who have been briefed about it say it has abandoned the two-state solution.

Meanwhile, the General Company for Hydraulic Projects has embarked on the first phase of a project aiming at rehabilitating the sanitation networks in AlDhiabiya and AlHusainiya, in Rif Dimashq. The project is worth 193 million Syrian Pounds, according to Syrian sources.



New sanitary sewers will be connected to the old underground pipes in order to transport sewage. Pumping stations will be rehabilitated in AlDhiabiya so as to reduce the level of wastewater.

Around 200,000 persons taking shelter in AlDhiabiya and AlHusainiya will reportedly benefit from the project.

Over recent years, Palestinian families taking refuge in AlDhiabiya and AlHusainiya have railed against the poor sanitation networks and improper sewage disposal as a result of frequent blackouts and maintenance works in the area. The dire socio-economic



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conditions, high unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, steep rental fees, and chronic water crisis have made the situation far worse.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Shadi Farid Darwish, a resident of AlAyedeen Camp, in Hums, snatched the first seat in the classic bodybuilding contest held in the city.

Dozens of success stories have been achieved by Palestinian sportsmen/women, students, and artists from Syria nationwide and overseas.