



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



"Situation of Displaced Palestinian Families in Northern Syria Exacerbated by High Temperatures"

- Syrian Embassy in Lebanon Opens Up Applications for Exemption from Military Reserve
- Washington Pushes for UN Action to Release Syria Prisoners
- Palestinian Girl Rudeina Khattab Secretly Held in Syrian State Prison for 8th Year

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Latest developments

Hundreds of Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in displacement camps in northern Syria continue to struggle for survival as they have been deprived of much-needed items and vital services, particularly healthcare, at a time when the novel coronavirus continues to grip the region.

The situation has been made worse by the scorching summer heat and high temperatures engulfing the poorly-equipped displacement camps.

The Syria Response Coordinators team have warned of the propagation of poisonous snakes, scorpions, and insects in the region, where most hospitals have been rendered out of operation.

The team called on the residents to stay vigilant while switching on stoves and gas cylinders and to keep children and the elderly indoors in order to avoid sunstrokes and dehydration.

Recently, 11 cases of food-borne poisoning were recorded in displacement camps due to spoiled food consumption.

After eight years of conflict, Palestinian refugees in and from Syria continue to face significant humanitarian and protection needs. In the absence of a durable political settlement, intense hostilities and violence resulting in deaths and injuries, internal displacement, loss of livelihoods, decreases in the provision of public services, and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure have disrupted the



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lives of civilians and forced thousands to become internally displaced.

UN data indicates that as many as 120,000 Palestine refugees have fled war-stricken Syria since 2011, including 28,000 to Lebanon.

The Syrian conflict has impacted Palestine refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories. There used to be 560'000 countrywide, mainly in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Damascus and Deraa.

According to the UN, today, some 440,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria, more than half of them are internally displaced, and nearly all require sustained humanitarian assistance.

In another development, the Syrian Embassy in Lebanon has issued on its official Facebook page new instructions regarding exemptions from military reserve services for Syrians in Lebanon and their dependents.

The embassy called on concerned persons to bring their passports, ID documents, and military service records along with their entry/exit records. The procedure costs nearly 100 USD. An additional 50 USD is paid for entry/exist records from the embassy and 25 USD for non-holders of military service records.

Meanwhile, Washington has called for the immediate release of civilian prisoners from Assad's jails and has requested for the UN to "double its efforts" to secure their release, Political Coordinator



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

of the US Mission to the United Nations (UN) Rodney Hunter announced on Thursday.

Addressing the UN Security Council, Hunter asserted: “The Assad regime’s actions to delay justice for the families of political prisoners can no longer be overlooked.”

“The UN must redouble its efforts to secure the unilateral and large-scale release of civilians in regime custody as an urgent step to advance the political reconciliation process between the regime and the Syrian people.”

“The Syrian people need political and constitutional reforms which remove this fear of arbitrary detention by the Assad regime”, he added.

Hunter called on the Syrian regime to: “Immediately and unilaterally release the thousands of civilians being held arbitrarily in detention centres.”

Meanwhile, he pressed for the Syrian regime to: “Grant humanitarian organisations and the UN immediate access to all facilities to ensure that detainees’ medical care and preventative measures against the coronavirus are taken care of,” as well as for “the disclosure of lists of all detainees and missing persons, including death records and burial sites.”

According to AGPS data, nearly 1,800 Palestinian refugees have been secretly incarcerated in Syria’s state-run lock-ups, where over 130,000 civilians are held.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية
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Last year, a report by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) said that over 14,000 people had been tortured to death in the Syria war using 72 different methods of torture.

The figure is likely to be much higher given that these figures reflect only what the organisation has been able to record.

The SNHR interviewed thousands of former detainees who survived prison and torture. Among the methods used were slicing off body parts and allowing junior doctors to practice surgical training on the prisoners. The doctors are encouraged to make medical errors.

Pouring boiling hot water on victims, burning them with chemical acids, whipping them on the feet, being bent through a tyre, pulling out finger and toenails using pliers and gouging out the eyes were also detailed.

In addition to this, detainees are denied access to medical treatment, deprived of using the toilet and other basic hygiene facilities, crammed into small, overcrowded cells and deprived of food and water.

A number of forms of sexual violence are carried out by security forces, including beating women so hard they lose their uterus.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Rudeina Muhammad Khattab, aged 29 and sheltered in Latakia, has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons since 2012.



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

Activists urged the international human rights institutions, particularly UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy in Damascus, to work on disclosing her fate.

Over 110 Palestinian women and girls have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian state dungeons, among 1,800 Palestinian detainees secretly held in those penal complexes.