



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

وزارة الصحة العامة
مستشفى بعبد الحكومي الجامعي
Ministry of public Health
Baabda Governmental University Hospital

"Body of Palestinian Refugee from Syria Found Outside of Lebanon Hospital"

- Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syria
- Heavy Criticism Leveled at PLO over Fast-Breaking Banquet in Embattled Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Wins 3rd Prize at School Karate Championship in Turkey

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

The body of a dead man was spotted on a wheelchair in Lebanon's Jabal province while covered with a winter blanket. No identity documents were found with the man.

The Lebanese investigation chief said on Thursday, May 23, the police received a phone call telling them that a man's body started to disintegrate after worms have made their homes inside his cadaver.

Following forensic and criminal investigation, authorities declared that the death was natural and took the man's fingerprints for administrative procedures. It turned out sometime later that the man is the Palestinian refugee from Syria Mustafa Mohamed AlSamak, the son of a so-called Mrs. Fathiya born in 1960.



The investigation chief said the body has been held in a morgue fridge at Baabda Governmental Hospital pending the arrival of concerned Palestinian parties to receive the cadaver and finalize pre-funeral protocols.



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Palestinian activists in Lebanon have called on the Palestine Embassy and institutions to urgently show up at the hospital and carry out burial procedures so as to lay the man to rest.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria seeking shelter in Lebanon have been subjected to dire socio-economic conditions and a precarious legal status as the Lebanese authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for legal visas and access to the local labor market.

Along the same line, the body of the Palestinian refugee Tareq Mansour AlHusain, taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb, south of Syria, was spotted on a roadside in AlMuzeireeb town. Signs of heavy torture figure on his body.

AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

AGPS documented the death of over 540 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Over 1,750 Palestinian refugees have also been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

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



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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 estimates the real numbers to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the victims' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to 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.

In another development, a banquet held on Wednesday by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees sparked widespread anger among displaced families and activists.

An activist said: "How come that the PLO managed to get a permission from Syrian authorities to hold a banquet while it failed to receive green-light for the return of displaced families to the camp?"

The banquet was held in Haifa Street in Yarmouk. Families taking shelter in the area along with PLO officials were in attendance.

Addressing the residents, Palestine Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi said the event bodes well and is a promising sign that families will gain access to their homes soon.



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“We will combine forces with the Syrian government to boost reconstruction and smooth the families’ return”, he added.

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. The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% 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.



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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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee from Syria Zein Ibrahim AlAli won the third place in a school karate contest (55 kg) staged in Turkey by the Turkish Karate Federation, in partnership with the Directorate of Youth and Sports.

The event was held on Tuesday, May 21, at the sports hall in Kayasehir. Zein grew up in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 8,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.



Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.