



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

25-05-2021

No. 3232

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS: 86% of Yarmouk Camp Residents Displaced against Their Will"

- Family Appeals for Information over Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria
- UNRWA Provides Grants to Palestinian Academics
- New Coronavirus Wave Feared in Northern Syria Displacement Camps
- Greece Heavily Criticized over Separation Walls around Migrant Camps

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Latest Developments

A poll recently conducted by AGPS about the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp found out that 86.7% of the residents have been forcibly displaced from their houses in the camp. Only 13.3% said they voluntarily left the camp.

According to the findings of the poll, 53.4% of the participants expressed their eagerness to return to the camp while 29.5% said they refuse to return to it. 17% are still confused.

On Thursday, 11 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Syrian conflict – 10 years after the uprising, by a large majority of votes; 568 for, 79 against, and 37 abstentions.

In the resolution, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) reminded the international community of the gravity and magnitude of human rights violations in Syria, perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including killings, detention, enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence and rape, displacement, ethnic cleansing, persecution of minorities, and a dire humanitarian crisis.

MEPs called on the Syrian regime to immediately release the 130,000 political prisoners detained, including women, men and children forcibly disappeared. In this respect, MEPs urged the European Union (EU) and Member States to facilitate the creation of an independent mechanism with an international mandate and a victim-led approach to locate the missing or their remains,



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including those found in mass graves. This call is based on the recommendation made by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria in its March 2021 report, echoed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Joseph Borrell, and Syrian civil society.

“Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance continue to be among the most urgent challenges to human rights in Syria with tens of thousands detained in prisons, primarily by the Syrian government. The release of detainees and the disclosure of the fate and location of those forcibly disappeared in Syria are urgent priorities for Syrians and Syrian civil society. It is crucial to realizing justice, accountability, and redress for victims and their families,” said Elizabeth Rghebi, Levant Researcher at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS).

In addition, the resolution emphasizes that Syria remains unsafe for refugee return, and calls on EU Member States to refrain from depriving Syrian refugees of their protected status. MEPs urged the EU and Member States to continue supporting and providing humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and IDPs.

Along similar lines, the family of Palestinian refugee Ibrahim Ahmad Jamal, who has been forcibly disappeared in Syria for the seventh consecutive year, continues to appeal for information about his condition and whereabouts.

Speaking with AGPS, Ibrahim’s mother said her son disappeared on March 10, 2014 while working at Bab AlHara restaurant, in Jaramana, in Rif Dimashq.



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Ibrahim was born on September 23, 1988 and raised in Syria's Yarmouk Camp.

In another development, UNRWA's Education Program in Syria said scholarships will be granted to a number of students admitted to the regular program at one of the Syrian public universities for the academic year 2020-2021.

The move is overseen by UNRWA USA National Committee.

Applications for the scholarships are to be received starting Thursday May 27 to Sunday June 27.

Meanwhile, a new COVID-19 wave is expected to hit opposition-held zones in northwestern Syria, warned the Syrian Health Ministry.

Director of Health Programs said medical facilities and healthcare services have been severely affected in northern Syria, an area that cannot withstand further shocks.

He said the concerned authorities have set up an oxygen station and two new laboratories in anticipation of the new COVID-19 wave.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.



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Some 819 Palestinian families have sought shelter in Idlib, including 226 families in the city center, 152 in Atama, 60 in Akrebat village, and 60 more in Sarmada town. 50 families are taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of coronavirus add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse.

In the meantime, the Greek government has come under heavy criticism over the grey walls, three metres (10 feet) high, which are being built around refugee camps near Athens.

Activists said there are plans to construct walls around another 24 camps on the Greek mainland.

The walls are being currently built around the five mainland refugee camps, Ritsona, Polykastro, Diavata, Makakasa and Nea Kavala.

Authorities have told camp residents that the walls are for their own protection.

In spite of assurances that daily life will not change for camp residents, a call for tenders, published by the government, reveals extensive measures to amplify security measures in refugee camps across Greece.



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Drones patrolling from the sky, magnetic gates with integrated thermographic cameras, X-ray machines and security cameras at the entry and exit points are just some tools that are planned to be implemented.

There are also proposals to close camp gates at about 9pm to prevent people from leaving, according to the Ministry for Migration.

According to the call, these surveillance systems will be installed in 39 camps across the mainland and the Greek islands; 75 percent of the costs will be covered by the European Internal Security Fund.

The walls alone cost about 28.4 million euros (\$34.8m) and largely funded by the European Commission.

Some residents of the camps being walled off described a heightened sense of imprisonment.