



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

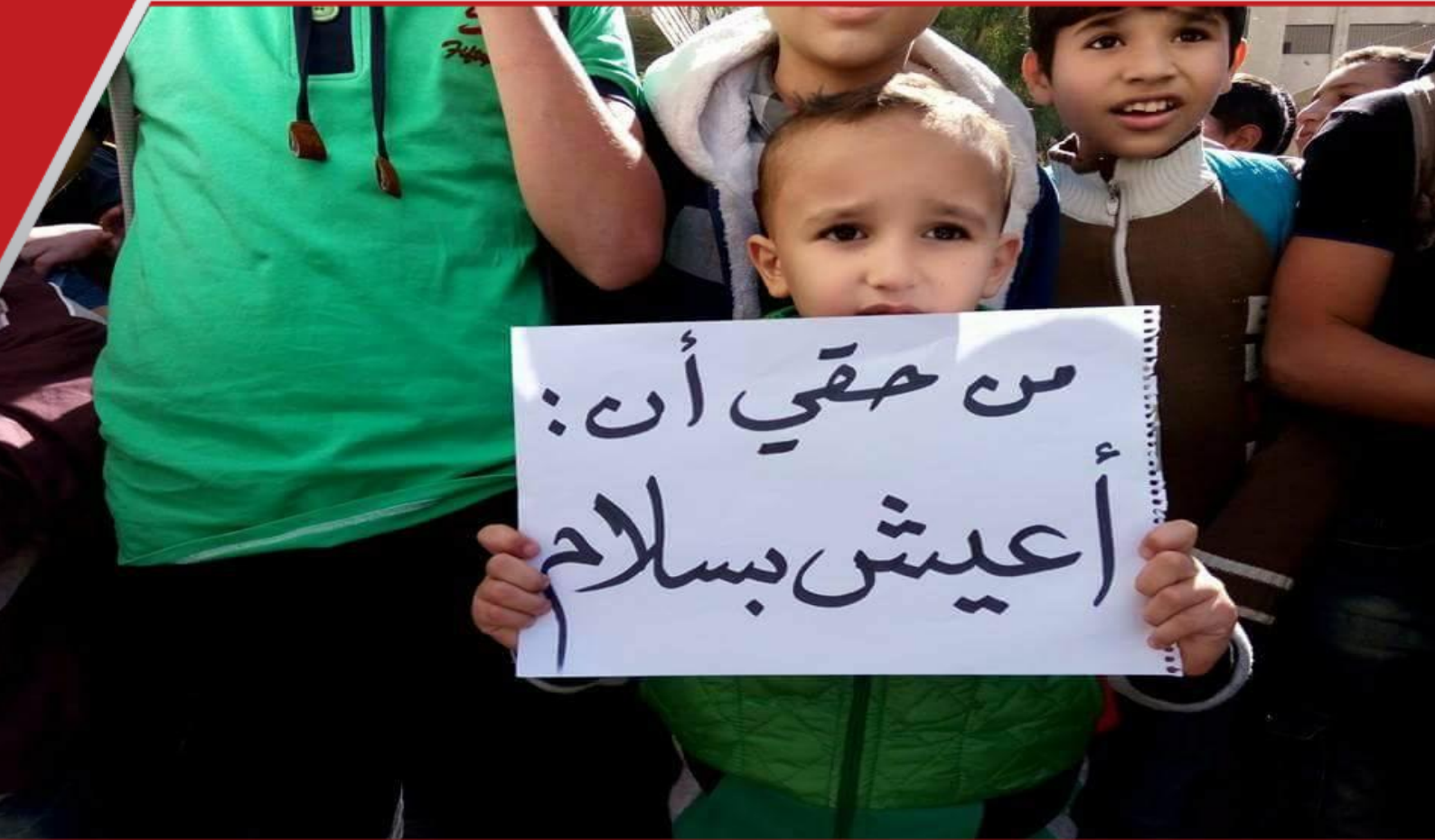
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"On Int'l Peace Day...Palestinians of Syria Continue to Struggle for Survival"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Facing Abject Humanitarian Situation
- Yarmouk's Displaced Families Level Heavy Criticism at Damascus Governorate
- 15 Palestinian Refugees from AlMuzeireeb Community Secretly Held in Syrian Jails
- Palestinian Refugee Ahmad Khaled Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Jail

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Latest Developments

As the International Day of Peace has been celebrated across the globe, Palestinian refugees continue to struggle with the trauma inflicted by the ten-year warfare in Syria.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

AGPS data indicates that heavy onslaughts by the Syrian and Russian forces have caused heavy damage to over 75% of civilian homes and structures in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, namely Yarmouk, Daraa, AlSabina, and Handarat.

A tough blockade imposed on Yarmouk and Daraa by Syria's pro-government forces led to an acute dearth in water and medicine. At least 205 Palestinians, mostly children and elderly civilians, were pronounced dead due to undernourishment and medical neglect.

At the same time, thousands of Palestinians have been targeted in abduction sweeps launched by the warring parties. AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinians and the death of over 600 others under torture in Syrian government jails.

Scores of Palestinian refugees have also been driven out of their homes and sought shelter in over-crammed makeshift camps, including the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp, north of Syria.



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More than 55 Palestinian refugees from Syria have died, meanwhile, onboard migrant boats bound for Europe.

The situation has gone far worse due to the fragile legal status of the Palestinians of Syria. Holders of Palestinian-Syrian travel documents are banned from entering neighboring and European countries. Those who manage to reach such territories as Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt are often subjected to mistreatment and refoulement.

Thousands of Palestinian children have also been denied the right to education, forcing hundreds of them to drop out of school and fetch low-paid jobs to assist their impoverished families.

As many as 4,047 Palestinians from Syria have died of war-related incidents during the ten-year conflict. 333 others have gone missing, according to AGPS statistics.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee families who returned to Deraa camp continue to rail against the squalid conditions they have enduring the area.

The residents have sounded distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare.

Most of Daraa's schools have also been destroyed or put out of operation in the raging warfare as a result of heavy shelling using missiles and barrel bombs. A number of education facilities have



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been turned into prisons or field hospitals, imperiling Palestinians' academic careers. Dozens of Palestinian teaching staff members have been arrested and sent to jail.

The residents continue to urge the Palestine Liberation Organization, UNRWA, and the General Authority for Palestine Refugees to make serious steps in order to reconstruct infrastructure, rehabilitate water, power, and sanitation networks, and restore UNRWA's health, educational, and relief facilities.

Founded in 1950-1951, Daraa Camp is home to over 650 displaced Palestinian families. As many as 10,500 Palestine refugees used to take shelter in the camp before the conflict in Syria led to large scale destruction and displacement. All UNRWA facilities in the camp have suffered high levels of damage and nearly 90 per cent of the camp residents were displaced.

Activists have attributed the situation to the fallouts of the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. 80% of civilian homes and property were destroyed.

Meanwhile, Damascus Governorate continues to drag its feet over civilians' calls to return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp and retrieve their property.

Displaced families slammed the Syrian authorities in Damascus for turning their back on their appeals to return to the camp and reconstruct destroyed facilities.



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Unofficial statistics indicate that some 200 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018.

The Syrian government forces regained control over the area and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

Last year, 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.

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 another development, 15 Palestinians, among them a woman, taking refuge in AlMuzeireeb area in Daraa have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian state prisons.

AlMuzeireeb town, south of Daraa, is home to nearly 8,500 Palestinian refugees along with dozens of families who were displaced from Daraa Camp.



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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Ahmad Husain Khaled, born in 1960, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian state jails for the seventh consecutive year.

Khaled was kidnapped at the government-controlled Husainiya checkpoint on March 5, 2013. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state penal complexes across the tension-stricken country, where hundreds of other refugees have also died under torture.