



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



"Palestinian Refugee Transferred to Syria's Sednaya Military Prison"

- Palestinian Refugee Jamal AlSayed Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prison for 6th Year
- School Drop Out Rates Increasing in AlHusainiya Camp
- Migrants on Chios Island Denounce Medical Neglect
- Rally Held in Northern Syria Displacement Camp over France's Anti-Islam Insults

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Latest Developments

Palestinian ex-prisoner Ahmad Khamis was transferred from Palestine Branch 235 to Sednaya military prison, in Rif Dimashq.

Ahmad, who was released from Israeli jails as part of an Israel-Russian swap deal and re-arrested by Syrian security forces, has been enduring an unknown fate in Syrian prisons.

Informed sources told AGPS that Ahmad was arrested in June 2019 and has been subjected to exhaustive interrogation by Syrian intelligence officers at Palestine Branch 235.

The prisoner, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, was released from Israeli jails in early 2019 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.

Ahmad was kidnapped in April 2005, allegedly after he attempted to creep into an Israeli military base and carry out an anti-occupation operation in the occupied Golan Heights. He was sentenced to 18 years in jail and spent 14 years of the term.

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.



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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.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Jamal Waleed AlSayed, born in 1970, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government dungeons, where he has been held for the sixth year running.

Jamal was kidnapped by Syrian government forces from AlAyedeen Camp in Homs.

AGPS kept record of the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, among them 110 women and girls.



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In another development, Palestinian refugees sheltered in AlHusainiya camp, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, continue to speak out against the inadequate educational services and poor-quality input delivered to their children at local schools.

AGPS has kept record of a sharp nosedive in access to education for Palestinians sheltered in AlHusainiya refugee camp, where over 80% of refugees live in poverty.

Child labor, early marriage, and enforced disappearance are among the factors that have led to an increase in school dropouts among the camp residents.

A number of local schools face overcrowding, with over 50 students often crammed in a single classroom.

Schoolchildren have also been subjected to bullying and psycho-physical violence by a number of teaching staff.

At times, students are compelled to walk for kilometers to sit for exams.

UNRWA installations in the camp include two double-shift schools and one afternoon-shift school in a government school.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.



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Several UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria. Other education facilities have been turned into prisons or field hospitals, imperiling Palestinians' academic careers.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees and hundreds of asylum seekers sheltered in a migrant facility set up on Greece's Chios Island continue to denounce the poor hygiene and absence of healthcare services.

Live photos obtained by AGPS show mounds of trash piled up near migrant tents, which increases the risk of COVID-19 contaminations and the spread of life-threatening diseases.

A migrant infected with tuberculosis was transferred to a detention center on the island to a hospital after he kept appealing for urgent humanitarian action for over three months. Another migrant woman with psychological disorders has been left without treatment for months.

Palestinian refugees and other migrants have been subjected to a dire humanitarian situation in substandard facilities set up in Greece, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece. Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter on Greek islands.



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Aid organisations stress that conditions in the overcrowded camps are inhumane, calling for migrants to be evacuated from the Greek islands.

In the meantime, displaced Palestinians and Syrians staged a rally in Deir Ballout camp, north of Syria, to protest French insults against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

The refugees said that they follow with great dismay the continued publication of offensive caricatures of the Prophet, expressing their firm rejection of any kind of insult against Prophet Muhammad and all the prophets.

The refugees warned that a repetition of such insults would ignite hatred and hostility and serve to destroy the culture of tolerance and peace among peoples.

On Oct. 2, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a controversial plan to tackle what he calls “Islamic separatism” in France, claiming that the faith of Islam is in “crisis” all over the world and promising to “free Islam in France from foreign influences”.

Last week, Macron defended blasphemous cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, saying France would “not give up our cartoons” after the brutal murder of high school teacher Samuel Paty, who showed provocative caricatures in a class.

The past few days have witnessed the republication of cartoons insulting Prophet Muhammad in France which, sparking a wave of



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anger and protests across the Islamic world and campaigns, have been launched in some countries to boycott French products.