



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



"Palestinian Students Subjected to Blackmail, Extortion by Pro-Gov't Forces in Damascus"

- **Palestinian Writer Ali ALShehabi Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't for 7th Year**
- **Mass Rally Staged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees in Solidarity with Besieged Gaza**
- **Relief Items Distributed to Displaced Palestinian Families from Syria in Sudan**

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Latest Developments

In letters emailed to AGPS, a number of Palestinian students railed against the blackmail and extortion perpetrated by members of the Palestine Recruitment Branch in Ein Karsh in Damascus.

The students said they have been frequently offended by officers stationed in the area and made to line up in long queues for hours outside of the Palestine Recruitment Branch office. Procedures and red tapes often take up a whole day and night to be finalized. At times, officers delay such procedures under the guise of power blackouts or internet outage.



The students and their families appealed to the concerned authorities to take urgent action in response to the crackdowns they have been made to endure by pro-government forces in war-torn Syria.

Meanwhile, Palestinian writer Ali Sa'id Shehabi has been secretly held in Syria government jails for the seventh year running.



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Shehabi, an English instructor at a UNRWA school, was kidnapped on December 17, 2012. Prior to his abduction, Shehabi had been taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Frequent calls by international NGOs and activists to unearth Shehabi's fate have gone unheeded by the Syrian government.

The instructor was arrested for the first time in 1974 and jailed for nine months in the Mezzeh military prison in Syria. In 1982 he was sentenced to another ten years over charges of affiliations with Syria's anti-government Communist Labor Party. In 2006, he received a seven-month prison-term on account of his attempts to form a new political party and over allegations of signing the Beirut-Damascus declaration, a statement signed in 2006 by Lebanese and Syrian activists who called on the Syrian government to correct its relationship with Lebanon and to respect Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. The declaration also called for an end to political killings in Lebanon.

AGPS documented the incarceration of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syrian regime lock-ups, among them children, women, academics, university students, and sick civilians.

In another development, hundreds of Palestinian refugees took to the streets of AlNeirab Camp in Aleppo to speak up against Israeli aggressions on the blockaded Gaza Strip and in protest at the US President Donald Trump's recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights.



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The marchers chanted slogans expressing solidarity with the embattled coastal enclave of Gaza and condemning the Israeli onslaughts targeting civilians and populated homes in the blockaded Strip.

The protesters called on all concerned institutions to immediately step in and work on lifting the crippling Israeli siege on Gaza.

President Donald Trump last Thursday overturned longstanding US policy regarding the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, announcing "it is time" for the US to "fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty" over the region.



"After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability," Trump tweeted.

The announcement hands Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a significant foreign policy victory, less than three weeks before Israelis head to the polls to decide whether he should remain in power. The move comes just days before Netanyahu is set to join Trump at the White House and follows weeks during



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which Netanyahu has renewed his push for the US to recognize the Golan Heights as part of Israel.

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six-Day War of 1967 and formally annexed the territory in 1981. But that annexation has not been recognized by the international community, which has regarded the Golan Heights as occupied territory and Israeli settlements there as illegal under international law. The UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, recently reiterated that position.

"The Security Council is very clear that the Golan is Syrian territory, and the first aspect of (Resolution) 2254 is of course the territorial integrity of Syria," he said in a news briefing in late February.

Meanwhile, Khayrah Ummah charity has handed over food baskets to displaced Palestinian families taking shelter in Sudan.

The move, which has been funded by the Indonesian NGOs KNRP and ANDARA, makes part of underway endeavors to assuage the calamitous conditions endured by Palestinian refugees fleeing war-stricken Syria.

According to unofficial data, nearly 1,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Sudan.

Extreme poverty, low wages, high rates of unemployment, and socio-economic marginalization have made life unbearable for Palestinian refugees in Sudan, forcing dozens of refugees to beg in the streets in order to feed their starved families.



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Palestinians from Syria in Sudan are not granted a refugee status and are, thus, deprived of their basic rights and subjected to costly visa fees. The lack of relief aid and humanitarian assistance has made the situation far worse.