



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



### "Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Appeal for Urgent Action by UNRWA"

- **Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Facing Exacerbated Humanitarian Condition**
- **180 Palestinian Residents of Yarmouk Camp Missing in War-Torn Syria**
- **Palestinian Refugee Ayman AlRefai Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't**

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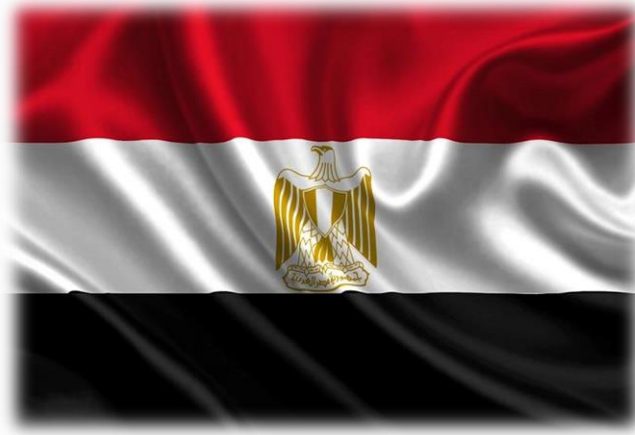


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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt have called on UNRWA to take up its responsibilities and hand them over relief and cash aids.

UNRWA continues to rebuff calls for help launched by Palestinians from Syria in Egypt on account that Egypt falls outside of its five fields of operation (Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) and that refugees taking shelter elsewhere do not make part of its mandate.



Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. Palestinians from Syria have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free movement, and access to education and labor, among other basic necessities.

Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.



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The number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt has dramatically shrunk back over the past three years. AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt, who fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operations, to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon have expressed deep concern over their fate in the midst of the large-scale protests sweeping the Lebanese territories over the past 10 days to topple the incumbent government.

Activists have called on UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority, and all other concerned parties to opt for an emergency plan and set relief assistance mechanisms in favor of Palestinian refugee families, most of whom have kept indoors over security concerns.

Palestinian refugees from Syria are reported to lack legal status in Lebanon. The absence of a specific legislation addressing their unique situation along with their ambivalent legal status and the inhospitality shown by local authorities combine to make life unbearable for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



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The price leap, steep rental fees, expensive education charges, and lack of access to the local labor market, along with the absence of relief aids, have made the situation worse.



In recent months, Lebanon's labor ministry has clamped down on businesses employing foreigners without valid work permits, including Palestinian refugees from Syria.

Activists have condemned this latest crackdown as a mere pretext to pressure refugees to return to the war-torn country, as amid an economic downturn casts, foreigners are increasingly being portrayed as stealing jobs from the local population. However, this is a misleading forgone conclusion.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought refuge in Lebanon, where they have been enduring exacerbated living conditions and subjected to a precarious legal status.

Meanwhile, 180 Palestinian residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, have gone missing in Syria since the outburst of the conflict.



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Updated data by AGPS indicates that 329 Palestinian refugees, including 37 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare.

Several other Palestinians have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government penitentiaries, according to testimonies by ex-prisoners.



Activists have accused pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Ayman Ahmad AlRefai has been held in Syrian government jails for seven consecutive years.

Ayman, a resident of AlAyedeen Camp in Hums, was kidnapped from his home in AlSham neighborhood on July 1, 2012.



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AGPS documented the detention of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state dungeons, among them 187 residents of AlAyedeen Camp in Hums.

AGPS believes that the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian authorities on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the refugee families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons, release the bodies of those tortured to death, 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.