



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



"On Palestinian Women's Day: Thousands of Palestinian Women Displaced, Tortured in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Arrested by US-Backed Militia North of Syria
- Syrian Regime Announces End to Property-Takeover in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Transportation Crisis in Syria Displacement Camp

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Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian women and the enforced disappearance of several others in the embattled Syrian territories.

According to AGPS data, at least 35 Palestinian women and girls were tortured to death in Syrian government dungeons, some among whom have been identified via leaked photos.

As many as 110 Palestinian women and girls have, meanwhile, been secretly held in Syrian state jails. Dozens of female refugees have gone missing inside and outside the Syrian territories. Others breathed their last onboard the “death-boats” to Europe, fleeing bloody warfare in Syria.

AGPS believes the number to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives’ names over retaliation concerns.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees and breakaways, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

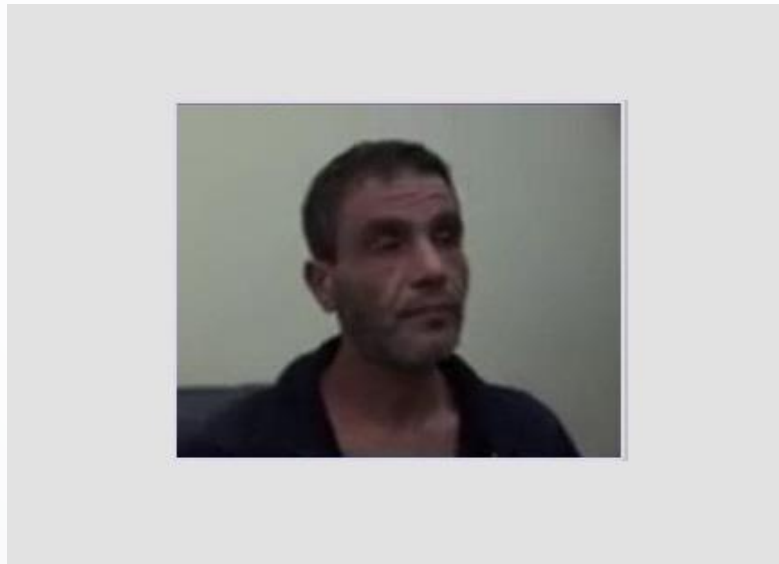


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Several women have also gone homeless or widowed after they lost their husbands and/or children in the war or due to torture.

Thousands of other women have been displaced from such refugee camps as Yarmouk and Khan Eshieh to northern Syria, where they have been struggling for survival in the impoverished refugee tents.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, social prestige, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.



In another development, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) arrested a Palestinian refugee, identified as Mohamed Khaled ALShehabi, in Tel Tamer town, north of Syria.



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The refugee had taken shelter in Yarmouk Camp, before he was displaced to the northern Syrian province of Idlib as a result of the conflict. The reasons behind his arrest have not been revealed.

Meanwhile, sources from Damascus said that the Syrian government forces have issued instructions for halting search campaigns and misappropriation of property targeting buildings in Yarmouk Camp.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Yarmouk and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

Reports of theft have emerged after Syrian government forces grabbed hold of the camp and burglarized civilian homes.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk Camp continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

In the meantime, residents of the Palestinian refugee camp of AlHusainiya, in Rif Dimashq, said their life has been marred by the transportation crisis rocking the area for years.



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The residents said transportation fees have seen a threefold increase, overburdening the cash-stripped families.

Students and parents also continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to secure transportation means to give daily lifts to their academic institutions and workplaces.

Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlHusainiya Camp continue to sound distress signals over the high rates of unemployment, water and power outages, along with the absence of health care and vital items, particularly fuel and gas.