



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

28-11-2021

No. 3422

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS: Thousands of Palestinian Women Displaced, Tortured in War-Torn Syria"

- UNRWA Staff Union Announces General Strike
- Palestinian Family Appeals for Information over Forcibly-Disappeared Elderly in Syria
- Palestinian Refugee in Turkey Renews Appeals for Urgent Treatment
- Palestinian Refugee Achieves Highest Voter Turnout in Danish Municipality

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of 488 Palestinian women and the enforced disappearance of several others in the embattled Syrian territories.

According to AGPS data, at least 37 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



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Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

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

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.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian women and girls in embattled Syria and provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.

In another development, the General Union of UNRWA Staff Workers started on Monday a general strike in all UNRWA premises across the Agency's five fields of operation (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza, and the West Bank).

The Staff Union said in a statement issued on Sunday that the strike is a protest move ahead of an open-ended strike to be staged starting Thursday, December 2 across UNRWA's five fields of operation.



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The Union is urging UNRWA to cancel exceptional and unpaid leaves given under the pretext of funding deficit and to retroactively resume annual bonuses suspended since March.

It further calls on UNRWA to create labor opportunities, recruit more Palestinian refugees, end temporary-work and day labor policy, pay November and December salaries, and implement the decisions of the Beirut Conference.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Ismail Kasem has been secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons for the eighth consecutive year.

His family and relatives have appealed to ex-prisoners and activists who have pieces of information about his condition and whereabouts to reach out to AGPS.

Ismail was born in 1950 and raised in AlHusainiya Camp, in Rif Dimashq. He was arrested in July 2013 on the road to Damascus Airport.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS has also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron



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sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Udai Shehabi, from Yarmouk Camp, has renewed appeals to the Palestinian embassy, the international humanitarian institutions, and relief organizations in Istanbul to help him secure a sum of 120,000 Turkish liras needed for urgent, life-saving treatment.

Udai has expressed fears that his leg would be amputated if he does not receive proper treatment at the soonest possible time.

Udai got his leg broken at his workplace in Turkey. He underwent a surgery worth 120,000 Turkish liras. However, ten days later his health condition took a turn for the worse. He was rushed to a hospital after he fell into a coma. He underwent several surgeries and got metal plates implanted in his leg. He needs another urgent surgery.

Udai fled war-torn Syria to Turkey to seek a better livelihood.

In another development, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Stitan has got the second highest voter turnout in municipal elections in Denmark.

Mohamed, affiliated with the United List party, won a reserve seat in the municipal council, No. 4 on the candidate list.



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Mohamed reached Denmark in 2014 and worked in eldercare centres. He is an active member of the United List Party which supports the refugees. The Party nominated him for municipal elections.

He was born in Yarmouk refugee camp in 1981 and graduated from the Faculty of Education in Damascus. He had previously worked as a teacher and assistant director of the AlNaqib Arabic School in Yarmouk camp.