



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



### Another Palestinian Refugee Identified in Leaked Photos of Torture Victims in Syria

- UNRWA Chief Urges Int'l Community to Stand By Palestine Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria Grappling with Bread Crisis
- Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Push for Urgent Action by UNRWA
- Anti-Annexation Rally Held in Deir Ballout Displacement Camp

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## Latest developments

Palestinian mother Fatma Aboud has mourned the death of her son Abdullah Mohamed Kheir AlSaad whom she identified in a series of photos leaked by the so-called Caesar breakaway

The victim, a former Arabic-language student at the Faculty of Arts and a resident of Yarmouk Camp, died under torture behind Syria's prison bars. He was arrested from Damascus University in 2012.

Horrific photos showing thousands of people who were tortured to death in Syrian government penitentiaries were leaked by a military police photographer, codenamed Caesar.

AGPS documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, including 110 women and girls.

A report released by AGPS on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture documented the death of over 620 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government penitentiaries, among whom minors and elderly detainees.

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

Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of



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customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity.

On 12 December 1997, by resolution 52/149, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In another development, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini called on the international community to tune up support for Palestine refugees and help increase the Agency's funds.

In a statement delivered on Occasion of the Brussels IV Conference on Syria: Supporting the future of Syria and the region, 30 June 2020, Lazzarini said that nearly 10 years into the conflict in Syria, some 440,000 Palestine refugees remain in the country. They are, according to the UN, among the most vulnerable groups inside the country.

“The harrowing images of the destruction of camps, among them the famous Yarmouk camp, still haunt all those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. More than 90% of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in absolute poverty”, the statement read. “Nearly 45,000 have fled to Lebanon or Jordan”.



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According to Lazzarini, too often, Palestine refugees continue to be missing from the narrative of the Syria crisis.

“And now COVID-19 is fueling a pandemic of abject poverty among Palestine refugees. Despair and hopelessness are growing”, he said.

“Palestine refugees rely on UNRWA for cash assistance to cover their basic needs. They send their children to our schools. They use our health clinics. They acquire skills at our vocational training centres”, added the statement.

“But this has come at a high cost in Syria. 19 UNRWA staff have been killed and 27 are missing or presumed detained. 40 per cent of our schools and 25 per cent of our clinics are unusable”, it said.

“Despite these human tragedies and setbacks, we cannot fail the Palestine refugees”, stated the UN official. “Like the Host countries, UNRWA is struggling to sustain critical services, and this is due to lack of funding at a time when needs are growing.”

He called on the international humanitarian community to acknowledge the plight of Palestine refugees from Syria and provide the necessary funding for UNRWA to meet their needs.

Meanwhile, Palestinian families sheltered in Khan Eshieh refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, said they have been left without bread due to overcrowding outside of the camp’s sole bakery.

The residents said they have been forced to line up outside of the local oven for hours in order to get a loaf of bread. Dozens of



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families have been forced to walk for several kilometers to fetch bread for their starved children.

Activists continue to call on the residents to abide by safety tips, including social distancing and mask wearing.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Eshieh camp have spoken up against the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare.

After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Survival for the majority of Palestinian families in war-stricken Syria has largely hinged on relief assistance. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon held a vigil on Wednesday outside of the office of UNRWA's director of operations in Lebanon's Ein AlHilweh camp.

The refugees called on UNRWA to take up its humanitarian and moral duties and to transfer their cash grants in US dollars and on time, in light of the economic hardship inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic.



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They further called for working out the legal status of refugees who lost their identity documents or who entered the country after September 16, 2016.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Deir Ballout camp have joined on rally held on Wednesday to protest Israel's planned annexation of occupied Palestinian land in the Jordan Valley and West Bank.



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The demonstrators called on the international community to push for an immediate end of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, lifting the siege on Gaza, and pressurizing Israel to refrain from its projected annexation move.

Israel is set to hold a cabinet vote on July 1 to annex major settlement blocs and the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank under US President Donald Trump's so-called "deal of the century" plan between Tel Aviv and the Palestinian Authority.

The land grab is opposed by the Palestinians, who threatened to abolish bilateral agreements with Israel if it went ahead with the annexation, further undermining prospects for a two-state solution.

The UN had earlier warned that the Israeli annexation of Palestinian land would lead to the outbreak of conflict and instability in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.