



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



"Palestinian Resident of Yarmouk Camp Released after 14 Years in Israeli Jail"

- **Palestinians in Europe Conference Calls for Protecting Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria**
- **Assessment of Yarmouk Buildings in Progress**
- **Palestinian Engineer Abdul Muhaymen Hanawi Locked up in Syrian Jail for 6th Year**

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Latest Developments

Palestinian prisoner Ahmed Khamis, a resident of Yarmouk Camp in Syria, and prisoner Zaidan Tawil, from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, were released from Israeli jails on Sunday and have been taken back to Syria, in what media sources described as Russian-mediated reciprocation for the repatriation of the body of a long-missing Israeli soldier.

The prisoners had been transferred to the Red Cross and then taken to Syria, Israel's military confirmed on Sunday.



Khamis was kidnapped in April 2005, allegedly after he attempted to creep into an Israeli military base and carry out an anti-occupation operation in the occupied Golan Heights. He was sentenced to 18 years in jail.

Both prisoners had allegedly requested to not be sent back to Syria, according to Israeli media outlets.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that Ahmed wished to be sent to the Palestinian city of AlKhalil, where he is supposed to marry his partner, while Tawil feared he would face persecution by the Syrian authorities.



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An Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity said on Saturday that Israel agreed to release the prisoners as a "goodwill gesture" after the return of the remains of Zachary Baumel earlier this month.

Israel's military announced on 3 April that Baumel's remains, missing since the 1982 Lebanon war, had been returned, bringing to a close a highly sensitive case for Israelis.

The announcement came less than a week before hotly contested Israeli elections, which saw Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu win a fifth term in office.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a visit by Netanyahu that the remains had been found by the Russian and Syrian armies, in a context where Moscow has a military presence in Syria to support President Bashar al-Assad.

But Syrian Information Minister Imad Sara said on 4 April that Damascus had no knowledge of plans to repatriate the remains, nor was it aware of the details behind the discovery of the body and its subsequent transfer.

In another development, the 17th Palestinians in Europe Conference called, in its closing statement, for serious efforts by national and international parties to preserve Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

The statement said Palestinian camps in Syria are a living witness of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe) and a springboard for Palestinians' anti-occupation struggle.



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The statement urged the international community to live up to its responsibility regarding the displaced Palestinian communities in and from war-torn Syria.

The conference hailed pro-Palestine NGOs and institutions, including the AlWafaa European Campaign and the Action Group for the Palestinians of Syria (AGPS), for their efforts in promoting Palestinians' human rights and speaking up for the refugees.



Saturday, April 27, 2019 marked the launch of the 17th Palestinians in Europe Conference in Denmark's metropolitan capital city Copenhagen under the slogan "With Unity and Steadfastness, We Shall Return". Some 15,000 Palestinian refugees, activists, and NGO representatives from Europe have been attendance.

The conference has been convened in light of the great challenges facing the Palestinian people, including those living in Europe.

A series of seminars have also been held as part of the conference about networking and partnership in pro-Palestine activism in Denmark along with the creative and efficient strategies to promote Palestinians' human rights.



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Meanwhile, pro-government sources in Syria said the technical committee handed over a preliminary report about the condition of buildings, premises, and infrastructure in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

A studies company entered Yarmouk Camp in mid-March after it was tasked by Damascus Governorate, in cooperation with the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, to assess the condition of civilian buildings and facilities in the area.



Member of Damascus Executive Office, Samir Jazaerli, said, following a meeting held in Damascus on Monday, March 11, that civilians will not be allowed to return to their homes in Yarmouk Camp before the technical committees finalize their reports about the condition of local buildings and premises, which sustained partial or total destruction during the warfare.

Activists and civilians have leveled heavy criticism at the local authorities for dragging their feet over increasing appeals for reconstruction and called for serious and urgent measures to smooth civilians' return to their homes in Yarmouk and rehabilitate vital facilities and infrastructure.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian engineer Abdul Mouhaymen Hanawi has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government prisons, where he has been held for six consecutive years.

Abdul Muhaymen was arrested in late 2013 over terror allegations. Activists said he had been spotted in Adra prison, in Rif Dimashq. He is a resident of Rukn AlDeen neighborhood in Damascus.

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,750 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes in war-torn Syria.