



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

29-05-2020

No. 2775

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Displaced Families Call On Damascus Authorities to Step Down"

- PLO Calls for Safe Return of Displaced Families to Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Brothers Mousa and Emad Abu Taha Secretly Held in Syrian Jails for 8th Year
- Migrants Slam Greek Authorities over Mass Refoulement Threats

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Latest Developments

Families displaced from Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees have urged local authorities in Damascus to hand over their file to another body after they failed to live up to the needs and aspirations of the residents.

The displaced families lashed out at the Governorate staff for dragging their feet regarding their appeals for a safe return to the camp and for the immediate launch of reconstruction drives.

Speaking with AGPS, activists said property-theft attempts have been ongoing in the camp in the presence of Syrian security forces.

Over recent years, Damascus Governorate has frequently promised to allow civilians to return to their homes. But none of such pledges have come true so far.

After nine years of conflict, Palestine refugees, particularly those taking shelter in Yarmouk, continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp continue to launch cries for help over their exacerbated situation due to the price hike, high unemployment rates, steep rental fees, and the decline in civilians' purchasing power.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.



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Civilians continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to speed up reconstruction works and rehabilitate infrastructure and vital facilities, including water and power networks.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area. Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018.

Last year, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.

Along similar lines, a meeting between the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) political factions discussed the squalid situation of Palestinian refugees in displacement camps across the Syrian territories.

The PLO sounded the alarm over the exacerbated humanitarian situation of the Palestinians of Yarmouk Camp due to coronavirus outbreak and the lockdown measures imposed across the country.



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Amr Mourad, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the meeting culminated in an emergency plan to work out the crises endured by the vulnerable Palestinian families.

He said positive initiatives have recently seen the day to push for the return of displaced families to their homes in Yarmouk Camp.

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

On January 07, 2020, Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen AlSaman, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, called on Palestinian refugees to file lawsuits in order to return to their homes and retrieve their properties in Yarmouk.

Scores of stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government regained control over the camp and southern Damascus towns following the military operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed.

In another development, two Palestinian brothers—Mousa and Emad Ibrahim Abu Taha—have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government prisons, where they have been held for the eighth consecutive year.

Both refugees were arrested at a government checkpoint in AlSayeda Zeinab town on February 22, 2012.



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Reports emerged in 2016 confirming their incarceration in the Sednaya military prison.

AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees, including 100 women and girls, in Syria's state-run prisons.

Meanwhile, a vigil was held by migrants and asylum seekers outside of Athens' migration agency protesting the government's crackdowns on migrants.

Dozens of migrants flocked to the Migration Agency protesting a court decision to deport thousands of migrants who were granted humanitarian asylum and visas in the country.

They further denounced the reduction of their cash grants amid the socio-economic hardship inflicted by coronavirus.

The migrants called for extending the deportation time-span in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

The migration agency attributed the decision to its intent to ease overcrowding on Greek islands due to the large migrant influx.

Most of migrants sheltered in European-funded facilities received evacuation notifications. The Greek authorities ruled that they stay in the country until the end of May due to coronavirus lockdown.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.



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AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.