



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



**"Residents of Husseiniya camp complain about lack of services and deterioration of infrastructure"**

- A Palestinian-Syrian suffering from lower body paralysis appeals for support for his treatment in India, or his return to Syria
- A resident of Al-Aedin camp in Hama dies due to torture in the Syrian regime prisons
- Director of UNRWA: Chaos is the alternative to discontinuing the services of the UN agency

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## **Victims**

Palestinian man, “Mohammed Qassem,” has died in the Syrian regime’s prisons due to torture. He was a resident of Al-Aedin camp for Palestinian refugees in Hama. This raises the total number of refugees who have died due to torture in the Syrian regime’s prisons to 479 victims, according to the Action Group’s documentations.

The Action Group receives many messages and information about Palestinian detainees, and documents them despite the difficulties of documentation, as the Syrian regime continues to conceal the fate of the detainees and their names and places of detention.



## **Latest Developments**

The residents of Husseiniya camp in the suburbs of Damascus are complaining about the lack of services and the deterioration of infrastructure, in particular the road, lighting, cleaning and water networks, and the waste disposal in the fields and alleys of their camp, which led to the spread of unpleasant odors and breeding insects, as well as the spread of large numbers of rodents, in its lanes and alleys, which have imposed a major threat to the lives of the



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people and the spread of diseases among the population and aggravated their suffering.

According to the residents, the camp suffers from the lack of water for several months, forcing them to take water from tanks at high prices, increasing their living and economic hardship. They also complain of power outages for significant periods of time, which reach up to more than 10 hours a day, due to the poor extension of the electricity network, and the apparent lack of electrical wiring and the installation of electricity meters.

Despite the ongoing complaints filed by the residents of the camp to the concerned and specialized parties, the problem has not been solved. While the promises of securing electricity by the municipality of Husseiniya and the popular committees loyal to the Syrian regime have gone with the wind, according to the description of the people.



The movement from Husseiniya camp in the suburbs of Damascus and to return to it is one of the significant problems that are not insignificant in the daily lives of its inhabitants. It has become a



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concern that worries them, and negatively impacts their living and economic conditions. The residents complained about the exploitation of bus drivers who raise the freight according to their mood, and they impose the bus route in accordance with their desires. This means that the residents have to take more than one means of transportation to reach their place of work, which is a financial burden on them.

From the educational point of view, the residents of the Husseinia camp complained about the deterioration of their children's educational conditions and poor achievements, due to neglect and the lack of sufficient attention. The parents are not informed of the courses and educational activities that are held in schools, and have no means of communication with the schools, for their complaints to be heard.

Unemployment rates are also rising at a time when aid from charities and UNRWA is low, covering only a fraction of the cost of their lives, according to a resident of the camp.

Husseinia camp witnessed bombardments of MiG aircrafts, which killed many and caused great destruction to the houses, as what happened in the massacre that targeted civilians on 17-1-2013, after they were bombarded with aircrafts. The camp also witnessed fierce battles between the regime army and pro-government groups on the one hand and armed opposition groups on the other, before the regime's army took total control of the camp on 9-10-2013.

In another context, Palestinian-Syrian refugee "Tarek Darbas," (31 years old) from Yarmouk camp, who suffers from lower



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body paralysis due to shrapnel from a shell that hit his family's home in Yarmouk, made a call for help to the International Red Cross, the international NGOs, the Palestinian Authority and its Embassy in India, to take urgent action to help and assist him in securing his treatment or helping him to return from India to Syria.

According to Al-Darbas, the mortar shell that fell on his place of residence in Yarmouk camp, causing him a number of shrapnel wounds. He was transferred to Al-Salam Hospital where he went under two surgeries. The first was on December 21st, 2012 to stop severe bleeding above the dorsal spinal cord with the withdrawal of multiple bone fragments. A shrapnel stabilized in the 11th dorsal cord, which caused him a lower half paralysis with urinary retention. The second operation took place three days later, when doctors extracted a metal fragment from the right leg, indicating that the doctors had not managed to remove two of the four shrapnel fragments and two fragments remained in his body.



Al-Darbas: “After I lost my hope and felt hopeless about my health, I became unproductive and a burden on my family, I began to



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address many humanitarian and medical organizations to help me in treatment.” He added that he managed to contact an Indian doctor to which he explained his health condition. She responded to his request and sent him an entry visa into India, for him and his mother, to be treated there.

"When I arrived in India, my mother and I went with the doctor, who took us to a doctor's office,” Al-Darbas continues. “There I was asked to make a magnetic and coaxial image and when I came back to see the doctor he told me that I need to install a neurological device costing \$20,000. I was shocked at this sum and told the doctor that I thought she would treat me in a systematic manner, but she denied it and did not help me at all.”

Al-Darbas went on, the words digging into his throat, and the tone of sadness and despair began to cover his voice: “I have spent all I have. Only some money is left with me and I will pay it for the hotel tonight. My old mother and I will sleep on the streets tomorrow. I can't imagine that this is happening to me and I was extremely overwhelmed when someone lent me their hand for help. Now, despair controls me and I do not know what to do in a strange country where I do not understand their language and can not deal with them. He noted that he made this appeal for help to the good doers and human rights organizations, in order to help him pay his travel costs to transfer him from India to Turkey, or return him back to Syria.

In another context, Matthews Shamali, Director of Operations for UNRWA, warned that the Arab region will go into chaos if UNRWA stopped providing its services, calling on the international



community to avoid reaching this stage, in order to preserve stability in the region.

Media agencies quoted Matthews that UNRWA's financial deficit is already below zero, because we carried a deficit of \$146 million from last year. The current deficit is \$446 million. He noted that the pledges made by some countries compared to UNRWA's deficit, are not significant.

Shamali revealed that some of the pledges made at the recent New York donors' conference were announced at the Rome conference. He said: "The funds and pledges that are being talked about by some Arab and international parties are distributed as follows: 50 million from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and 10 million from Turkey, which were pledged in March at the Rome Conference. They have already been received and are therefore they are not new funds, but they have been announced again by the countries in the New York conference.

The UN official stressed that UNRWA will not cease to provide its services, and will not hand over its services and functions to any other parties, stressing that it is not UNRWA, but the General Assembly and Member States which decide on such an issue. "I do not see anyone in the Assembly and Member States making this decision that UNRWA will hand over its functions to any other party," he adds.

UNRWA is experiencing a severe financial crisis after the United States significantly reduced its assistance to the international agency.