



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

30-04-2019

No. 2369

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

### "بلا حساب"

## تمر ذكرى ضحايا مجزرة الكيماوي

News of them we today

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**"Remembering Tragic Chemical Attack: 34 Palestinian Refugees among Dozens of Civilians Massacred in Syria"**

- **Palestinian Families from Syria Grappling with Abject Conditions in Besieged Gaza**
- **Fate of Palestinian Refugee Ahmed Abu Tawq Shrouded in Mystery in Syrian State Jail**
- **Exhibition Held by Palestinian Artist from Syria at Copenhagen Conference**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



## Latest Developments

On the sixth anniversary of the “chemical massacre”, perpetrated on August 21, 2013 in Rif Dimashq, AGPS warns that the Palestinian refugee community in Syria has been disastrously affected by the onslaughts launched by the Syrian government army using internationally prohibited weapons, namely napalm, cluster grenades, and barrel bombs.

August 21 is a reminder of the offensive rocking Zamalqa and Mu'dhamiyat AlSham towns, in Rif Dimashq, and which took away the lives of hundreds of civilians, among them 34 Palestinians, due to heavy inhalation of toxic gas. Heavy material damage was also inflicted on Palestinian refugee camps and shelters, along with UNRWA facilities.



The list of Palestinian victims includes 18 from the Ghazi family, in Zamalka, and seven other in Mu'dhamiyat AlSham.

AGPS continues to call on all warring actors in Syria to abide by their obligations under international law and protect civilians during armed conflicts.



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AGPS urges the international community and UNRWA to live up to their duties as regards the situation in war-ravaged Syria and to work on providing Palestinian refugees with physical and legal protection.

AGPS also calls for serious action to bring war criminals in Syria before international courts.

Along the same line, thousands of Palestinian refugees from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 12-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

The Palestinians of Syria in Gaza also attributed the crisis to the apathy maintained by the human rights institutions, most notably the UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property. The lack of relief assistance has added bad to worse.

Over recent months, the refugees kept urging the Palestinian Authority, PLO, political factions, and international institutions to live up to their responsibilities, including securing the refugees'



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moral and physical protection and shelling out their cash allowances as decreed by the Ministerial Council on April 6, 2015.

In another development, an exhibition was held by Palestinian artist from Syria Maamoun AlShayeb on the sidelines of the 17th Palestinians in Europe Conference kick-started on April 27 in Copenhagen.



Maamoun AlShayeb was born in 1960 in Damascus-based Yarmouk Camp. His parents are natives of Tirat Haifa, in occupied Palestine. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1984 and worked as a drawing teacher in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria for over 25 years.

In the meantime, Palestinian young man Ahmad Abu Tawq, born in 1990, has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons since September 4, 2013.

Ahmad was kidnapped by pro-government forces from AlRaml Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Latakia. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.





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

AGPS also documented the death of over 540 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.