



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Rights Group: Syrian Regime Holding Criminal Amjad Yousef Who Killed and Raped Dozens in al Tadamun Massacre

- UNRWA Chief Reopens Premises in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Flag March Held in Northern Syria Displacement Camps in Solidarity with Palestinian People
- Calls Launched for Anti-Coronavirus Vaccines in Jaramana Camp



Latest Development

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) revealed in its latest report that the Syrian regime is currently holding the criminal Amjad Yousef, who killed dozens of Syrians in addition to raping dozens of women, in al Tadamun neighborhood in Damascus. noting that there are fears that the fate of the 87,000 people forcibly disappeared in regime prisons will be similar to that of the detainees murdered in al Tadamun neighborhood.

The three-page report referred to an investigation published by New Lines magazine at the end of April 2022 that proved that Yousef, an officer in the Syrian regime's security forces, specifically the '227 Region Branch' of the Military Intelligence Division, was among those responsible for the arrest/kidnapping of dozens of Syrians in the neighborhood, with 41 of those detained there taken to a pit dug for the purpose of serving as a mass grave, where they were thrown in and shot dead before their bodies were set alight. The investigators managed to persuade Amjad Yousef into confessing to this terrible crime.

As the report reveals, the Syrian regime is now retaining Amjad Yousef in custody; since the detention process was not carried out according to a judicial warrant based on a specific charge, he has not been referred to the judiciary, and the Syrian regime has not issued any information indicating his arrest.

The report raises concern over the fate of the 87,000 people documented as being forcibly disappeared in regime prisons, which may be similar to that suffered by the victims in al Tadamun neighborhood. In this context, the report reveals that the Syrian



regime has detained, and continues to detain, at least 131,469 of the people arrested since March 2011, with 86,792 of this number classified as forcibly disappeared persons, including 1,738 children and 4,986 women (adult female).

The report stresses that the Syrian regime had not announced the identity of those who were killed by Amjad Yousef and his partners or informed the victims' families of their deaths, with these victims having been classified as forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime, although the investigation published by New Lines further confirmed that at least some of the forcibly disappeared are being liquidated in an unspeakably brutal manner with their bodies burned and buried in pits that serve as unmarked mass graves.

The report adds that the Syrian regime has systematically used enforced disappearance as one of its most prominent tools of repression and terrorism aimed at crushing and annihilating political opponents simply for expressing their opinion, harnessing the capabilities of the security services, which have tens of thousands of members, to hunt down those who participated in the popular uprising, and to arrest, torture and forcibly disappear them.

The report stresses that Amjad Yousef was involved with many Syrian regime bodies in carrying out these terrible crimes, and it seems that the regime fears that more of those involved will be exposed, and, for this end, may 'disappear' Amjad Yousef for life or kill him after he confessed his crimes, in order to thwart further investigation.



The report notes that the Syrian regime would not have detained Amjad Yousef if regime bodies had not been involved in this atrocity at the highest levels. The report further notes that the Syrian regime protects the perpetrators of violations, and in some cases promotes them, so that they're aware that their own fate is always organically linked to the regime's fate, and so that defending it becomes an essential part of defending themselves.

The report adds that Amjad Yousef and thousands of other members of the regime's security services and army forces would not have committed such atrocious violations had they not been part of a deliberate policy implemented at the direct orders of the head of the Syrian regime, Bashar al Assad, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces (army and security). Such large-scale violations need the coordination and cooperation of dozens of individuals and institutions, and while the Syrian regime must be aware of them, it has not only failed to institute any deterrence or accountability, but given the orders and facilitated their commission.

The report calls on the UN Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the fate of the forcibly disappeared persons in Syria and to act to end torture and deaths due to torture inside Syrian regime detention centers, and to save whoever is left among the detainees as quickly as possible.

The report also calls on the Security Council and the United Nations to compel the Syrian regime to open all detention centers for inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross and all United Nations committees.



In another development, this week, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, inaugurated an UNRWA school and health centre and visited repaired shelters in Dera'a refugee camp, in southern Syria.

The camp, once home to 10,000 Palestine refugees, was severely damaged during the conflict. Since their displacement, over 3,700 Palestine refugees have returned to Dera'a, where they faced extremely difficult living conditions, extensive damage and limited access to basic infrastructure. UNRWA is their sole provider of basic services.

The rehabilitation of the camp's health centre and the UNRWA al-Safsaf Tiberias School were made possible thanks to the support of the Government of Japan and UN Habitat. The health centre will provide medical services, including mental and psychosocial care, to the camp's Palestine refugee residents. Some 800 students will now be able to continue their education in a newly refurbished school compound. Additionally, the camp's health centre was designed with increased access for persons with disabilities and features an environmentally friendly solar power system to generate electricity and decrease fuel consumption costs.

“Rehabilitating our facilities to provide critical services to Palestine refugees is the only way to help them rebuild their lives and live in safety and dignity after years of displacement. UNRWA is a lifeline for these refugees. I am very grateful to Japan and UN Habitat for making this possible.” said Lazzarini.



“It is my hope that we can replicate this success and support thousands of refugees who are returning to other places like Yarmouk and Ein el Tal camps, which were also severely damaged during the conflict. To make this happen we must rehabilitate the damaged UNRWA schools and clinics”, he said.

UN data indicates that over 40 per cent of Palestine refugees living in Syria are displaced internally, with over 90 per cent living on less than US\$ 2 a day. Eleven years of conflict, coupled with the global COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on food prices, make it increasingly difficult for many Palestine refugees to pay rent outside camps. Many have no other choice but to return to living amidst the rubble of their damaged or destroyed homes. Over the next month, UNRWA expects more refugees to return to Dera’a, Ein el Tal, and Yarmouk camps.

During the Brussels VI Syria Conference, “Supporting Syria and the Neighborhood” earlier this month, UNRWA urgently appealed to donors to support the renovation of damaged Agency installations in refugee camps across Syria.

In the meantime, dozens of Palestinians and Syrians sheltered in the northern Syrian province of Idlib participated in a flag march in solidarity with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The march held under the slogan “raise your flag” kicked off from Idlib and toured nearby towns. Marchers raised the Palestinian flag and chanted slogans condemning Israeli crimes.



This week, thousands of far-right Israelis have stormed Damascus Gate in occupied East Jerusalem to mark the so-called flag march in the old city.

The march was held to mark what Israelis call the day of unifying Jerusalem, in reference to Israel's occupation of the city in 1967 and subsequent annexation which is not internationally recognised.

Israeli ultra-nationalist groups have chanted racist slogans such as "Death to Arabs", as they marched through the streets of the old city.

Israeli forces have dispersed Palestinian protesters after a splinter group of Jewish nationalists started waving flag inside Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Some Jewish worshippers also prayed at the mosque compound violating a longstanding agreement in place since 1967.

At the same time, dozens of Palestinians have been injured in the occupied West Bank amid confrontations between Palestinians and armed Israeli soldiers.

In the meantime, activists have called upon residents of Jaramana Camp to take anti-coronavirus vaccine doses in order to help curtail the virus propagation in the camp.

The calls were launched following a recent decision by the Syrian Health Ministry to embark on widespread vaccination campaigns.



Vaccines will be provided in Jaramana Camp starting Tuesday, May 31.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines. In Jaramana Camp alone, over 40 people have succumbed to the disease.

A few months earlier, AGPS warned of an unabated outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.