



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



"AGPS: Over 1,800 Palestinian Refugees Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons"

- Emergency Health Center Opened in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Appeal for Debris Clearance

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Latest developments

On the International Day of the Disappeared, AGPS reiterates its deep concerns about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

The International Day of the Disappeared, on August 30 of each year, is a day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.

AGPS data indicates that 1,797 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 620 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



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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.

In another development, an emergency health center has been opened by Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian regime, in AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

The center is managed by experienced medics and paramedics. Treatment will be provided for free to the residents of the camp and nearby zones.

The center is equipped with a nebulizer (a device which turns liquid medicine into a mist to help treat asthma) and an oxygen cylinder.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in AlNeirab refugee camp in Aleppo, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Dozens of cases have been reported in the area. Several coronavirus-residents refuse to reveal their names over bullying concerns.



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In the meantime, residents of Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees have appealed to the concerned institutions to remove rubble piled up across residential alleyways.

Civilians said they cannot clear rubble due to high costs, slamming the apathy maintained by UNRWA and local municipalities regarding their appeals for urgent action.

All the way through Syria's nine-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities.

Civilians continue to sound distress signals over the absence of health services and life-saving medical kit. Most of the clinics and medical centers in the area have gone out of operation in the warfare.

UN data indicates that Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned



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since the camp returned to government hands. As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Daraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.