



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



"Dozens of Palestinian Journalists Killed, Forcibly Disappeared in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Boy Stabbed to Death in Berlin
- Pro-Government Militia in Syria Carries Out Buildings, Population Census in Handarat
- Palestinian Students Honored in Damascus
- Bread Packs Distributed in Northern Syria Displacement Camp

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Latest Developments

In data released on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, marked on November 2, AGPS said it has kept record of the death and abduction of several Palestinian journalists in war-torn Syria.

At least 18 Palestinian journalists were killed since the outburst of deadly hostilities in March 2011, among them academics and volunteers. The casualties died while covering scenes on the battleground or while providing civilians with relief assistance across the ravaged Syrian territories.

Facts on the ground prove that the number of casualties is much higher. Difficulties in documentation stem from the absence of official statistics, lack of concern as regards the number of Palestinian casualties, journalists in particular, and the intricacy of the name-identification process.

The casualties are photojournalists and activists Fady Abu Ajaj, Jamal Khalifa, Ahmad AlSahli, Bassam Hamidi, Ahmad Taha, and Bilal Sa'id. They were killed in onslaughts targeting Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Photojournalist Jihad Shehabi died in an air strike on Hjeira town, south of Damascus, while activist Yamen Dhaher was killed in a raid on Khan Eshieh Camp. News correspondent Tareq Ziad Khader was pronounced dead in Daraa Camp, south of Syria.



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Yarmouk residents Niraz Sa'id, Khaled Bakrawi, Hassan Hassan, and Alaa Naji, along with Bilal Ahmad, from Muadhamiyat AlSham, were tortured to death in Syrian government prisons.

Iyas Farhat was the first journalist to be killed in Yarmouk as he covered a rally protesting the murder of 14 members of the Palestine Liberation Army in the bloody warfare north of Syria.

Ghassan Shehabi, director of AlShajara Center to document Palestinian heritage, along with activists Ahmad Kousa and Mounir AlKhatib were gunned down by a government sniper in Yarmouk Camp.

Scores of activists, journalists, and correspondents have, meanwhile, been locked up in Syrian government dungeons for years. The list includes Muhannad Omar, Ali Shehabi, Rami Hajou, Ali Musleh, and Ahmad Jalil.

Facts on the ground prove that the number of casualties is much higher. Difficulties in documentation stem from the absence of official statistics, lack of concern as regards the number of Palestinian casualties, journalists in particular, the intricacy of the name-identification process, and the families' reluctance to reveal the victims' names for fear of retaliation.

AGPS condemns the apathy maintained by the international community and Palestinian leadership as regards the extrajudicial killing, harsh torture, and arbitrary detention of Palestinian journalists and activists in war-ravaged Syria.



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UN data indicates that between 2006 and 2019, close to 1,200 journalists have been killed worldwide for reporting the news and bringing information to the public. In nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished. Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems.

These figures do not include the many more journalists, who on a daily basis suffer from non-fatal attacks, including torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations. Furthermore, there are specific risks faced by women journalists, including sexual attacks.

Worryingly, only one in ten cases committed against media workers over the past decade has led to a conviction. This impunity emboldens the perpetrators of the crimes and at the same time has a chilling effect on society including journalists themselves. Impunity breeds impunity and feeds into a vicious cycle.

When attacks on journalists remain unpunished, a very negative message is sent that reporting the “embarrassing truth” or “unwanted opinions” will get ordinary people in trouble. Furthermore, society loses confidence in its own judiciary system which is meant to protect everyone from attacks on their rights. Perpetrators of crimes against journalists are thus emboldened when they realize they can attack their targets without ever facing justice.



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Along similar lines, Palestinian boy Mohamed Amayri was fatally stabbed by anonymous assailants in Berlin.

Initial investigations have held a far-right extremist responsible for the “racist” attack.

The victim was born and raised in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, before he fled to Germany with his parents.

In another development, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have embarked on a comprehensive census to count residents and houses in Handarat camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

Over recent months, Liwaa AlQuds officers have reportedly been buying civilian homes and property in Ein Tel (Handarat) refugee camp for Palestinian refugees at low prices.

Local sources told AGPS that contractors and brokers having close ties to Liwaa AlQuds commander Mohamed AlSa'id have been telling civilians that their homes will be demolished, pressurizing them to sell their property at very low prices.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in Handarat due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.



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Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

UN data indicates that in April 2013, armed groups entered Ein El-Tal camp, forcibly displacing the entire population over a period of some 48 hours. The camp was a theatre of armed conflict until 2016, sustaining extreme damage in the process.

In the summer of 2017, families started to return to Ein El-Tal camp. Most of these families had been displaced to a government collective shelter in Aleppo city. As of the end of 2018, there are 90 Palestine refugee families that have returned. The camp is almost completely destroyed and lacks basic infrastructure including water, sewage and electricity.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) honored a number of Palestinian and Syrian students who achieved high scores in their secondary school exams.

The ceremony was held in Damascus. Palestinian and Syrian officials were in attendance.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

Almost ten years into the conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The conflict has caused immense suffering and trauma over the past years.

In the meantime, the Palestinians of Syria Commission for Relief and Development has distributed 650,000 broad loafs in 10 displacement camps in northern Syria, where hundreds of Palestinian families have been taking shelter.

Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped tents and denied access to vital facilities and services.