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## التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية  
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

**Over 36 Palestinians Killed by Chemical Weapons in Syria**

- **Palestinian Refugee & His Wife Missing on Migration Route**
- **Humanitarian Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Damascus Exacerbated by Price Leap**
- **Free Medical Days Held in Khan Eshieh Refugee Camp**



## **Latest Developments**

The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare serves as a reminder of the “chemical massacre”, perpetrated on August 21, 2013 in Rif Dimashq, and which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent Palestinians.

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.

On August 21, 2013 an offensive rocking Zamalqa and Mu'dhamiyat AlSham towns, in Rif Dimashq, took away the lives of hundreds of civilians, among them 36 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 members of the Ghazi family, in Zamalka, and seven others in Mu'dhamiyat AlSham.

Human rights data indicates that the massacre took away the lives of over 1,450 civilians. The Syrian Network for Human Rights kept record of the death of 1,027 persons, including 107 children and 201 women.

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

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.

Recent years have seen the erosion of the taboo against chemical weapons, threatening the disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.



The UN says that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, is intolerable and a serious violation of international law. Impunity for their use is unacceptable. It is imperative that those who use, or have used, chemical weapons are identified and held accountable.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Mohamed AlAli and his expectant wife Nour Arbani disappeared off Greek seashores after they boarded a Europe-bound migrant boat from Turkey.

Their relatives have lost contact with the couple since October 31.

In another development, the conflict in Syria has been causing knock-on effects on Palestinian refugees.

Syria has been engulfed by a devastating war since 2011. The conflict has since brought misery and death to Palestinian refugees sheltered in the country.

Prices of food and non-food items have skyrocketed and the exchange rate of the Syrian pound has further deteriorated (1USD/3,900 SP, up from 3,500).

In southern Damascus, a kilogram of bananas is sold at 23,000. The cost of one kilogram of tomatoes is estimated at 3,200 SP.

Eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, the majority of Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

UN data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 120,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond;

438,000 Palestine refugees remain in the country – 91 per cent of whom live in absolute poverty - and who have been among those worst affected by the conflict.

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

In the meantime, the Quds Charity, in cooperation with the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR),





announced the launch of free medical days in Khan Eshieh refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq.

The two-day drive was launched on November 30.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.