



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



"PLA Reduces Staff Salaries"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria's Hjeira Town Denounce Power Blackouts
- Vital Services Partly Resumed in Yarmouk Camp
- US demands status of all Syrian detainees be made public
- 53 Palestinian Residents of Hama Camp Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons

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Latest Developments

The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime, has lowered salaries of its gunmen on claims of inferior fitness rates.

Special sources told AGPS that the PLA has updated its staffers on the decision to reduce salaries to 38,000 Syrian pounds, down from 43,000. Volunteers will receive 60,000 instead of 65,000.

Earlier this year, dozens of Palestinian youths joined a new military training session by the PLA.

A number of buses with young men onboard were spotted in displacement camps across the war-torn country. The conscripts were transferred to Bassel AlAssad Institute for Military training in Mesyaf town.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.



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In another development, Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in Hjera town, in Syria's Rif Dimashq province, have been left without power for the fifth consecutive day.

The residents slammed local authorities for turning deaf ears to their appeals to enhance infrastructure and vital facilities.

A report issued by AGPS in late 2020 under the title "Palestinians in Hjeira Town: Between the Threat of Displacement and Attempts of Demographic Change" revealed the abject humanitarian condition endured by dozens of Palestinian families in the area.

The report kept record of several instances where Palestinians taking refuge in the area were arrested, attacked, and had their property destroyed and/or misappropriated.

In 2013, Iraqi, Afghani, Lebanese, and Iranian militias wreaked havoc on Hjeira town and burglarized civilian homes and property.

The report further unveiled the preplanned campaign launched by Jihad Construction Company, affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in cooperation with real estate brokers, to buy houses in and around the town in an attempt to alter the demographic character of the area.

Meanwhile, Damascus Governorate has started providing services to Palestinian refugees south of Damascus.

Vehicles have been spotted clearing garbage from residential neighborhoods.



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After ten years of conflict, Palestine refugees, particularly those taking shelter in Yarmouk, continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp continue to launch cries for help over their exacerbated situation due to the price hike, high unemployment rates, steep rental fees, and the absence of fuel supplies.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Over recent years, most of Yarmouk's families have lived on sporadic aid handed over to them by UNRWA.

Civilians continue to appeal to the concerned authorities to speed up reconstruction works and rehabilitate infrastructure and vital facilities, including water and power networks.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were forced out of Yarmouk Camp after the Syrian fighter jets struck the area in late 2012. Dozens were killed and hundreds wounded in the onslaught. The situation went downhill after ISIS militias grabbed hold of the camp in April 2015 and closed off vital thoroughfares to the area. Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19.



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Entering its 10th year, the Syrian warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Yarmouk Camp and other displacement camps set up across the ravaged country. In 2014, the Syrian regime cut off water in the camp, leaving hundreds of families at the risk of death.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In the meantime, the United States demanded Tuesday that the status of tens of thousands of civilians detained in Syria during the country's 10-year conflict be made public, and that the bodies of those who died be returned to their loved ones.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield made the demand at an informal high-level U.N. General Assembly meeting on human rights in Syria where she denounced the "brutality" and "untold suffering" caused by Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime and the "appalling atrocities" it has committed.

"The Assad regime continues to imprison tens of thousands of innocent Syrians - women and children, the elderly, doctors and providers, journalists, human rights defenders," she said. "At least 14,000 Syrians have been reportedly tortured and tens of thousands forcibly disappeared."

Her demand for the status of detainees and return of bodies "with the time, place and cause of death" follows Monday's release of a new report by the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Syria which said



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the Syrian government arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals and committed “war crimes and crimes against humanity in the context of detention.” Other parties in the conflict also committed crimes by unlawfully and arbitrarily depriving individuals of their liberty, it said.

The Syrian conflict has killed nearly half a million people, displaced half the country’s pre-war population of 23 million, including 5 million who are refugees abroad. Large parts of Syria are destroyed and tens of thousands still live in tent settlements.

Along similar lines, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 53 Palestinian refugees sheltered in AlAyedeen Camp, in Hama, in Syrian prisons.

At the same time, at least 26 Palestinian residents of the camp died of war-related incidents.

AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 550 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



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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.