



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



For 3rd Year, Yarmouk Camp Residents Denied Access to Local Cemetery

- Palestinian Journalist Muhannad Omar Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't for 10th Year
- CSO Slams UNRWA's Response to Refugees' Complaints
- GAPAR: Int'l Community Should Stand Up for Palestinian Refugees' Rights



Latest Development

Residents of Yarmouk Camp continue to denounce the movement crackdowns and cordon imposed by Syrian regime forces around the old Shuhadaa Cemetery.

Civilians have reportedly been denied access to the local cemetery to pray for their deceased relatives.

Over recent years, activists have slammed the Russian and Syrian government forces for ransacking the old cemetery of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, in search of the body remains of Israeli soldiers killed in the Battle of Sultan Yaakoob in Lebanon in 1982.

On April 19, 2018, a military operation launched by Syria's government battalions and their Russian abettors led to the destruction of 60% of civilian buildings and premises in Yarmouk Camp. Dozens of civilians were killed and hundreds injured in the offensive.

Heavy damage was wrought on Yarmouk's AlShuhadaa Cemetery as graves were hit with barrel bombs and headstones smashed by missiles and mortar shells.

In another development, Palestinian journalist Muhannad Mohamed Omar has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian government lock-ups for the tenth year running.

Omar was kidnapped by the government troops from the office of AlAlem Channel on February 29, 2012 on account of his affiliations with opposition outfits.



The journalist was born in Yarmouk in 1985. He is the father of two kids. He taught Arabic literature at AlBaath University in Homs and worked as a journalist at AlQuds International Foundation, before he moved to AlAlem news channel in Damascus.

On May 15, 2011, he joined protests calling for return to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which he had entered sometime later with a group of Palestinian youth.

He wrote several blogs on the situation of the Palestinians of Syria and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Syrian government since the outbreak of the conflict. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

At the same time, Palestinian writer Ali Sa'id Shehabi has been secretly held in Syria's regime prisons for the tenth year running.

Shehabi, an English instructor at a UNRWA school, was kidnapped on December 17, 2012. Prior to his abduction, Shehabi had been taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

AGPS has documented the secret incarceration of over 1,800 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government lock-ups, among them dozens of women and minors.

Meanwhile, the Association of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon slammed a statement issued by UNRWA in response to a video released a few days earlier in which a staff worker at Liban Post ordered a sick refugee to arrive by ambulance to get his cash aid.



Director of Liban Post in Sidon gave orders for allowing Palestinian refugee Anas Khalil to enter the office by ambulance to get his cash grant, sparking anger among the refugees.

The Association said UNRWA's accusations that Anas did not abide by the Agency's instructions are counterfeit and called it on to provide a healthcare allowance to the refugee.

The group threatened to close off UNRWA's main office in Sidon and escalate protest moves in case the Agency drags it feet over the refugees' appeals for ending its contract with Liban Post.

Sometime earlier, UNRWA apologized to the patient but said it opted for a unified distribution mechanism to prevent fraud. Beneficiaries should show up at distribution offices and present their identity documents to get their cash grants.

The Agency said sick refugees and people with disabilities can assign another person to receive the allowance on their behalf after informing UNRWA offices.

In the meantime, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in Syria said alms should not be given to UNRWA as the Agency is not a charity but rather a relief body having an UN-operated mandate.

GAPAR said in a letter that UNRWA is an independent Agency having as a mission to assist Palestinian refugees pending a lasting solution to their plight.