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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



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

Tadamon Massacre by Syrian Regime Unforgettable for Palestinian Refugees

- **Syrian Regime Deprives Military Service Evaders of Their Property in Yarmouk Camp**
- **Palestinian Refugees Denied Access to UNRWA Clinic in Syria Displacement Camps**
- **Palestinians among Asylum Seekers Trapped on Greek Island**



Latest Developments

In late April last year, the Guardian published an investigation with footage showing a massacre taking place in Tadamon, near Syria's capital Damascus, in April 2013, and claiming the lives of 41 people, including three Palestinian refugees.

The three refugees are Wasim Omar Seyam, Sa'id Ahmad Khatab, Abd Luay AlKubra, residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

Informed sources told AGPS that Wasim Seyam, born in 1980 and a graduate of the Teacher Training Institute in Damascus, was arrested in 2013 by Syrian security forces deployed on Nisreen Street, while on his way out of Yarmouk Camp to fetch flour for his starved family.

Sa'id, also a resident of Yarmouk Camp, is the grandson of Sai'd Khattab, who was killed in Ein Zaytoun massacre along 79 residents of the village, by Zionist militias.

The piece published by the Guardian was called "Massacre in Tadamon: how two academics hunted down a Syrian war criminal," and written by Middle East correspondent Martin Chulov.

Tadamon is a suburb south of Damascus. It was there that groups of civilians were rounded up, sent towards an execution pit, and shot dead.

The British newspaper reported that the mass grave contained at least 41 bodies following the massacre. The bodies were then doused with fuel and set alight.

In the video footage, soldiers could be heard laughing.

The massacre took place just a few miles from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power.

The footage was recorded by a new recruit to a loyalist militia, who leaked it first to an opposition activist in France and then to two



researchers: Annsar Shahhoud and Prof. Ugur Umit Ungor of the University of Amsterdam's Holocaust and Genocide Center.

In July 2022, the father of Palestinian victim Waseem Seyam delivered a statement as part of Agenda Item 4 of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

“The footage of the Tadamun massacre published by The Guardian in April 2022 was just shocking and dreadful for us all. I can't believe that you were mercilessly shot dead along with other victims while being blindfolded and zip-tied after you were forced to run towards an execution pit. Your bodies were then set on fire. This horrendous crime is just scandalous”, the father told the UNHRC.

The Palestinian Return Centre also submitted to the United Nations an extensive written report on the Al-Tadamon neighborhood massacre, which was officially filed under No. A/HRC/50/NGO/116.

In another development, Palestinian refugees said their relatives who evaded military service have been denied access to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees to retrieve their property.

A couple of years ago, the Syrian regime announced its intent to seize the property of military dodgers, in reference to people eluding government-imposed obligation to serve in the military forces.

Brigadier-General Ilyas Beitar said at the time that draft evaders aged 42 and above will have their property and money confiscated. An exception will be made to those who pay 8,000 USD as a fine.

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

Meanwhile, residents of Khan Dannun Camp, in Rif Dimashq, have spoken out against the mistreatment they have been subjected to by staff members at a UNRWA-run clinic in the camp.

The residents have urged the UN refugee agency, the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, and all other concerned



authorities to take immediate action in response to the mistreatment they have been facing at the UNRWA clinic.

A number of residents leveled heavy criticism at the duty doctor working in the clinic, saying he has been refusing to provide medical diagnosis to patients with chronic diseases showing up at the facility.

28-year-old Palestinian refugee Jalal Walid Kasem, who suffers heart failure, was denied treatment at the clinic.

His mother said he suffers myocardial ischemia, pulmonary edema, and weak heart pumping.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp was built several centuries ago to give overnight accommodation to trading caravans on the ancient route between Jerusalem and Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). In 1948, the ruins of the city provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011, almost all of whom were living in irregular housing, constructed without any formal approval from the municipality.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees. The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure.

In the meantime, 28 migrants, including Palestinian refugees, have been stranded on the Greek island of Ikaria.

Activists from the Aegean Boat Report said the group of migrants includes twelve men, eight women, and five children.



Aegean Boat Report called on the Greek authorities to localize the migrants, provide them with food and shelter, and facilitate their access to asylum procedures, as per Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Article 19 of the charter states that no one may be removed, expelled or extradited to a State where there is a serious risk that he or she would be subjected to the death penalty, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.