



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, Detained in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Youth Appeals for Information over Missing Mother
- Volunteers Take Part in Reconstruction of Handarat Camp
- Rights Groups Urge UN to Pressurize Syrian Gov't to Free Prisoners

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Latest Developments

In statistics released on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists observed annually on 2 November, AGPS has kept record of the murder of a number of Palestinian journalists and the forced disappearance of others in war-torn Syria.

AGPS has documented the death of 18 Palestinian journalists 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.



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The list includes nine journalists who died under shelling, five who were tortured to death, and four others who were fatally shot.

AGPS has learned that 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 Jehad 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.

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

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.

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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In another development, Palestinian refugee Osama Redwan AlKhatib, 22, called on the international human rights institutions and concerned authorities to help him garner data about his Egyptian mother Sabrine Ali Shehata, whom he has not met for 20 years.



Osama had lived with his mother and father, Redwan, in Libya. He has lost contact with his mother since 1998.

Meanwhile, volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent joined a campaign to repair power at the local school in Handarat Camp for Palestine refugees in Aleppo and cleanse the public park.

Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. Severe water and power crises also continue to rock the area. A massive destruction has been wrought on the infrastructure and civilian structures.

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



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culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other areas in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.



In the meantime, the Caesar Families Association, the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison, and Families for Freedom have called on the United Nations to urge the Syrian government to free all prisoners and victims of enforced disappearance.

The NGOs said releasing prisoners should be a top priority for the Constitutional Committee which assumed duties as of late October.

A joint statement by the human rights groups said tens of thousands of men and women have been held and tortured behind Syrian prison bars while the Syrian government refuses to grant them fair trials.

The NGOs called on the UN to implement confidence-building measures as was set by the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 for 2015 and to reveal the fate of forcibly disappeared persons.

The organizations urged the UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen to make efforts to that end prior to constitutional talks.



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The statement held civil society organizations responsible for the repercussions of ongoing violations of victims' rights.

AGPS continues to call on the Syrian government to disclose the fate of hundreds of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons.

AGPS believes that the arbitrary internment of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria amounts to a war crime.