



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



"Memorandum Handed over to UN to Protest Yarmouk's New Reconstruction Plan"

- Damascus Governorate Discusses Yarmouk New Reconstruction Plan
- Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Turkey Alarming as Coronavirus Infections Rise
- Palestinian Refugee Omar Hejazi Subjected to Enforced Disappearance for 8th Year
- School Bags Distributed to Parentless Palestinian Schoolchildren in Syria

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Latest developments

28 Palestinian and Syrian NGOs and CSOs sent a memorandum of objection to the United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen of Norway, to warn of the impact of the new master plan issued by Damascus Governorate to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus.

The memorandum said the new plan strips the residents of their ownership and property rights and blurs the geo-historical identity of the camp. Several destroyed buildings and facilities will also be removed as part of the new plan.

It added that such measures will prevent Yarmouk residents from returning to the camp due to delays in reconstruction and their inability to get alternative houses.

The memorandum said such measures contravene human rights laws, international conventions, and the Syrian constitution, protecting ownership rights.

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new reconstruction plan for Yarmouk Camp, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Tension has been running high in the area as thousands of refugees continue to rail against the proposed plan, amid growing fears that their homes and property will be removed from the new plan.



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Along similar lines, a meeting was held on September 6 between Damascus Governor and the technical committee in charge of assessing the new reconstruction plan of Yarmouk camp.

The committee was formed following consultations between the Governorate and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR).

Another meeting is slated to take place sometime soon to take final decisions in this regard.

A recent report issued by AGPS under the title “Yarmouk Camp: What’s Behind the New Reconstruction Plan” has spotlighted the projected impact of the new master plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 06, 2020 to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp.

The report warns that the new plan violates the residents’ ownership rights and swells up over 50% of old buildings and property owned by civilians. No compensations, except for small shares, are, however, proposed in the plan.

The reconstruction plan will also result in a removal of the camp’s demographic character. No more than 40% of the residents will be allowed to return to their homes in mildly damaged areas. Several families will not be able to prove property ownership due to such laws and regulations as Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment. The situation is even more complicated for those who lost their documents in the warfare as well as those currently sheltered abroad.



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The report includes a historical overview about the establishment of Yarmouk Camp, the reconstruction initiatives, and the pre-war and post-war conditions of the camp.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Turkey have expressed concerns over their deteriorating condition particularly in light of the new movement clampdown imposed across Turkish provinces as part of anti-coronavirus measures.

A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.

Palestinian refugees have urged UNRWA and the UNHCR to assume their responsibilities regarding the Palestinian refugee community in Turkey and work on toning down their calamitous state of affairs in light of the socio-economic crisis and health setback wrought by the global coronavirus epidemic. UNRWA continues to turn its back on the refugees' appeals on claims that they fall outside of its map of operations.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Omar Ya'kob Hijazi, born in 1975, has been secretly held in Syrian government detention centers for six years running.

Hijazi, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, was arrested by the government forces on the Syrian-Lebanese borders on May 1, 2014. His fate remains unknown.



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AGPS has been deeply concerned about the upsurge in the number of Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance in Syria.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

In the meantime, Muhjat AlQuds Foundation distributed school bags and furniture to 450 orphan and poor students sheltered in Palestinian refugee camps in and around Damascus.

The move makes part of attempts to assist Palestinian refugee students in the new academic year.

More than nine years of deadly warfare have imperiled the quality of education and access to educational facilities in the ravaged Syrian territories. Palestinian schoolchildren and university students continue to strive for careers that match their dreams for a better future

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.