



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

21-08-2020

No. 2859

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"7 Years since 36 Palestinians Were Killed by Chemical Weapons in Ghouta"

- 2 More Palestinian Refugees Die of COVID-19 in Syria Displacement Camp
- Tension Soars in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Residents of AlSabina Camp Denounce Chronic Power Blackout
- 2 Palestinian Brothers Secretly Held in Syrian Gov't Prisons since 2012

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Latest developments

On the seventh anniversary of the “chemical massacre”, perpetrated on August 21, 2013 in Rif Dimashq, AGPS warns that the Palestinian refugee community in Syria has been disastrously affected by the onslaughts launched by the Syrian government army using internationally prohibited weapons, namely napalm, cluster grenades, and barrel bombs.

August 21 is a reminder of the offensive rocking Zamaqa and Mu'dhamiyat AlSham towns, in Rif Dimashq, and which took away the lives of hundreds of civilians, among them 36 Palestinians, due to heavy inhalation of toxic gas. Heavy material damage was also inflicted on Palestinian refugee camps and shelters, along with UNRWA facilities.

The list of Palestinian victims includes 18 members of the Ghazi family, in Zamaqa, and seven others in Mu'dhamiyat AlSham.

AGPS continues to call on all warring actors in Syria to abide by their obligations under international law and protect civilians during armed conflicts.

AGPS urges the international community and UNRWA to live up to their duties as regards the situation in war-ravaged Syria and to work on providing Palestinian refugees with physical and legal protection.

AGPS also calls for serious action to bring war criminals in Syria before international courts.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Sometime earlier, activists said that Syrian government forces ravaged the Zamalka graveyard, where the victims of the 2013 massacre have been buried. The activists warned that the dead bodies might have been transferred to an unknown location.

Human rights data indicates that the massacre took away the lives of over 1,450 civilians. The Syrian Network for Human Rights kept record of the death of 1,027 persons, including 107 children and 201 women.

In another development, Palestinian refugees Mohamed Khalil Zaydan and Fatma Saker have succumbed to the novel coronavirus in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria.

A number of Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlNeirab camp, in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, have died of COVID-19 this week.

Palestinian political factions in Aleppo sent a petition to UNRWA, urging the Agency to take immediate action in response to the coronavirus outbreak in the camp.

The petition called on UNRWA to equip the camp with medical equipment and medicines to help the residents fight the deadly virus.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in AlNeirab refugee camp in Aleppo, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying an urgent action is needed to save the camp.

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

Meanwhile, tension has been running high in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, due to an altercation between Liwaa AlQuds brigade and AlNeirab armed group, both affiliated with the Syrian regime.

An AGPS reporter said the altercation burst out shortly after a woman from AlNeirab village refused to wear a face mask distributed by Liwaa AlQuds near the main entrance to the camp to prevent further coronavirus contaminations.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Along similar lines, Palestinian families taking shelter in AlSabina refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, continue to rail against the chronic power outages.

Civilians said the power crisis has made life unbearable in the area, at a time when stifling heat continues to grip the region.

Located some 14 kilometers away from southern Damascus, AlSabina Camp has been gripped with an abject situation owing to the absence of humanitarian assistance, relief aids, proper infrastructure, and vital facilities.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

UN data indicates that the camp was established in 1948. Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to 22,600 Palestine refugees. It was taken over by armed opposition groups in 2013. The camp remained closed to civilians for almost four years and houses and infrastructure were damaged in the fighting. In September 2017, civilians were able to return to their homes. All UNRWA installations were in need of repairs.

The whole Palestine population in AlSabina camp suffered from displacement during the crisis and many families left the country and sought refuge in neighboring countries or fled to Europe.

During the conflict, labor opportunities have dwindled and the unemployment rate is still very high with very limited financial resources to help Palestine refugees restore their livelihoods. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp is situated on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. Palestine refugees who came to Syria in 1948 first settled the camp. It also accommodates Palestine refugees who were displaced as a result of the 1967 conflict.

In the meantime, Palestinian brothers Waseem and Anas Mahmoud Muhahi have been held in Syrian government dungeons since October 2012. Both were kidnapped from Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees south of Damascus. Their condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

AGPS kept record of dozens of cases of internment and fatal torture of members of same family in Syrian government prisons.

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

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

Over 1,770 Palestinian refugees have also been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

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 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 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.