

الخاص بأوضاع اللجئين الفلسطينيينفي سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

#### 9 Years since 36 Palestinians Were Killed by Chemical Weapons in Ghouta

- Dozens of Palestinians Killed, Detained While Assisting War-Affected Communities
- **Equipment for Dental Clinic Donated to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees**
- **1** 10 Palestinian Students from AlNeirab Camp Admitted into Aleppo Medicine Faculty

#### **Latest Developments**

On the ninth 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 Zamalqa 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 Zamalka, 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.

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.



Along similar lines, AGPS kept record of the death of nearly 4,000 Palestinians and incarceration of over 1,900 others in the beleaguered Syrian territories.

Palestinian medics and relief activists have also been permanently targeted by the Syrian regime forces on claims of assisting opposition affiliates. Several relief workers and volunteers died under torture in government lock-ups.

The list of Palestinian medics who were tortured to death in Syrian regime prisons includes: Surgeon Nizar Jawdat Kassab, from Yarmouk Camp; gynecologic physician Mahmoud Hamarna, from Yarmouk; Radi Saleh Abu Shakoush, from Khan AlSeih Camp; Yasser AlTarabulsi; anesthetist Maw'ed AlMaw'ed, activist Udai Qadoura, from the Palestine Charity Commission, and Mohamed Khaled Noufel, from Khan AlSheih Camp.

The list of missing medics includes general surgeon Hayel Kasem Hamid, aged 67. Hamid is a member of the General Surgery Department at AlAssad University Hospital. Palestinian neurosurgeon Alaa AlDeen Youssef and another Palestinian refugee—Malek Mohamed Youssef—also figure on the list. Youssef, a dentistry graduate, was kidnapped by the government forces from Damascus University on May 23, 2013.

Medical staff and structures in besieged Yarmouk Camp came under heavy shelling by the government squads. Dozens of doctors, pharmacists, and paramedics have been pronounced dead in the raging warfare, among them Ahmed Nawaf AlHassan and Khaled AlKhalidi. Dozens more were kidnapped and executed by ISIS.

Relief activists Yahya Abdullah Hourani Abu Suhaib, Mohamed Areisha, Abu AlAbd Khalil, Bahaa AlAmin, Mustafa AlShar'an, and Firas AlNaji were also assassinated in Yarmouk Camp.

Several relief institutions have gone out of operation after ISIS crept into the camp in early April 2015.

At the same time, AGPS documented the death of 18 Palestinian journalists in Syria and the secret detention of dozens more since the outburst of deadly hostilities in March 2011, among whom academics and volunteers.



The causalities died while covering scenes on the battleground or while providing civilians with relief assistance across the ravaged Syrian territories.

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

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.

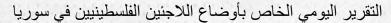
Iyas Farhat was the first journalist to be killed in Yarmouk as he covered a rally protesting the murder of 14 members of the Palestine Liberation Army in the bloody warfare north of Syria.

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

In another development, the Union of Palestinian Communities and Organizations in Europe donated medical equipment needed to operate a dental clinic at Fayez Halawa Hospital run by the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian regime, in Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Earlier this year, the PLA inaugurated the Helwa Zeidan Cultural Centre and Raja Abu Amasha Clinic in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees following reconstruction works that lasted for several months. The two facilities were massively destroyed in the conflict.

In the meantime, a number of Palestinian refugee students were admitted into Syria's public universities.





The list includes 10 students from the AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, who will pursue their studies at the Aleppo Faculty of Medicine.

The students are Rama Hussam Yaqoub (238,5); Rama Zuhair Al Nabulsi (235,5); Hadia Muammar Shuraih (235); Muhammad Yousef Salem 233,5; Muhammad Alaa Miari (232,9); Dania Salim Hamida (232,8); Muntasar Muhammad Asaad (232,8); Sidra Mahmoud Zeidan (231); Mohamed Bashir Jibreen (230,9), and Ahmed Safwan Hussein (230,3)

Last year, some 11 Palestinian students got enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine in Aleppo.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.