



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Displaced Palestinian Families Appeal for Urgent Return to Yarmouk Camp

- Dozens of Dead Bodies Trapped Under Rubble in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Facing Ambivalent Legal Status
- Palestinian from Syria Detained in Turkey Launches Cry for Help



Latest Development

Four years after the Syrian regime regained control over Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, displaced Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Over recent years, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

The activists have warned against attempts by crooked real estate brokers to pressurize civilians to sell their homes and properties following the widely-condemned reconstruction plan proposed by Damascus Governorate.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the



displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

Along similar lines, scores of dead bodies in the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk, south of Damascus, remain trapped under the mounds of debris piled up in the camp.

The victims were mostly killed in strikes launched by the Syrian regime and their Russian partners on April 19, 2018.

According to local activists, the bodies of Haifa AlHaj and her husband Mohamed Hadaba, along with Inshirah AlShaabi, Abdul Hadi Ghoutani, Basema Ghoutani, Walid AlWazir, and Salah Abeiat have been stranded under the stacks of debris on Ata AlZeir Street, in the camp.

The victims were killed in the offensive launched by the Syrian fighter jets on April 19, 2018 to recapture the camp.



Over recent years, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to allow paramedics and civil defense crews a safe access to Yarmouk Camp so as to remove the bodies of civilians who were killed in the round of hostilities launched by the government forces.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns, following a 33-day military operation launched on April 19. Over 30 civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Heavy material damage was wrought on more than 60% of civilian buildings and property.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a frail legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

Palestinians from Syria (PRS) in Egypt have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.

Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, PRS are left on their own.

At the same time, the number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt has dramatically shrunk back over the past three years.

AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt is estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in



recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt, who fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operations, to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Dhiaa AlDeen AlKubra, who has been held in Turkish custody for the eighth day, has appealed to the Palestine Embassy in Turkey, the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, the Turkish Association in Solidarity with Palestine (FIDAR), and the international humanitarian and human rights organizations to pressurize the Turkish authorities to release him.

Dhiaa was arrested in Istanbul on May 14, 2022, on his way to a supermarket. Police said he does not hold a Turkish protection card known as "kimlik". Dhiaa holds a Palestinian-Authority stamped passport.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 10,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration



roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.