



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



**"Palestinian Ex-Detainee Ahmad Khamis Held in Syrian Gov't Prison for 6th Month"**

- Displaced Palestinian Woman in Lebanon Appeals for Urgent Treatment
- Workshop Held by UNRWA Student Parliament in Beirut
- Aids Handed Over to Expectant Women in Aleppo's Handarat Refugee Camp

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian ex-prisoner Ahmad Khamis, who had been released from Israeli jails as part of an Israel-Russian swap deal, has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syria's state-run prisons for the 6th consecutive month.

Sometime earlier, informed sources told AGPS that Khamis has been subjected to exhaustive interrogation by Syrian intelligence officers after he was transferred from an Israeli jail to Syria via Red Cross staff. The Syrian government forces kept him in custody at Palestine Branch 235. His condition has been unknown.

Khamis, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, was released from Israeli jails a few months earlier and was taken back to Syria, in what media sources described as Russian-mediated reciprocation for the repatriation of the body of the long-missing Israeli soldier Zachary Baumel.



Khamis was kidnapped in April 2005, allegedly after he attempted to creep into an Israeli military base and carry out an anti-occupation operation in the occupied Golan Heights. He was sentenced to 18 years in jail and spent 14 years of the term.



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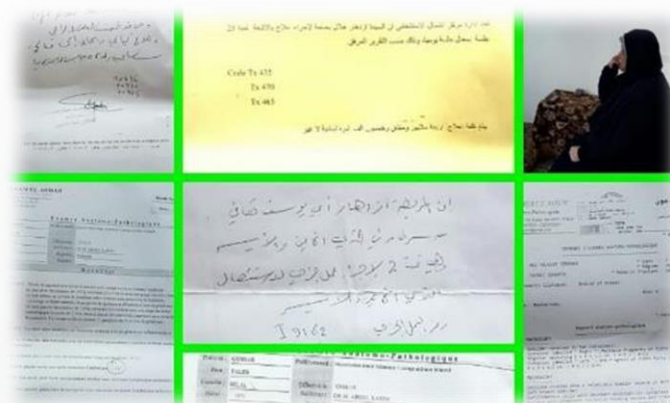
Israeli news outlets reported that Khamis wished to be sent to the Palestinian city of AlKhalil, where he was supposed to marry his partner.

An Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity said at the time that Israel agreed to release the prisoner as a "goodwill gesture" after the return of the remains of Zachary Baumel sometime earlier.

Israel's military announced on 3 April that Baumel's remains, missing since the 1982 Lebanon war, had been returned, bringing to a close a highly sensitive case for Israelis.

In another development, Palestinian refugee from Syria Izdiyar Taleb Helal said she has been left without medical treatment for three months and has been unable to purchase much-needed medicines.

Izdiyar was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy (she had both breasts surgically removed) at the Madhloum Hospital in the Lebanese city of Tripoli in early 2019.



A number of relief institutions and persons have contributed sums of money to help her pay surgery and chemotherapy charges, including in the post-surgery phase. She has been undergoing





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therapy in one of her breasts in order to completely eliminate cancer, but needs urgent chemical treatment to eliminate the tumor infecting her second breast.

The hospital administration said treatment costs nearly 4 million Lebanese pounds. Izdiyar has also to pay \$ 100 monthly for rental fees.

The refugee fled Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, in 2012, to Nahr AlBared camp, north of Lebanon, with her cash-stripped family.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Lebanon, where they have been subjected to a precarious legal status and dire socio-economic conditions owing to their lack of access to vital services, particularly health care.

Meanwhile, on November 23, UNRWA's 22 newly elected members of the third Agency-wide Student Parliament (ASP), representing all of the Agency's fields of operation – Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, came together for a four-day workshop held in Beirut.





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At the workshop, participants explored topics such as democratic practices, leadership, participation, decision-making, and communications. The students developed their work-plan to guide the activities of the ASP over the coming year. They also elected a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary.

Fourteen-year-old Mohammad Al Farra from Gaza was elected the President of the ASP.

The Agency-wide Student Parliament was first established in 2017, providing an opportunity for UNRWA students to work together to support their communities and advocate for their rights locally, regionally, and globally. This Agency-level platform builds on the school-level student parliaments operational in UNRWA schools since 2001.

In the meantime, volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent, in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross, distributed maternity backs for expectant mothers and newborns in Handarat camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo.

Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 70% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations 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.



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Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Authority of Arab Palestinian Arab Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.