



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"PLO Envoy in Damascus: Yarmouk Camp Enduring Tragic Situation"

- Palestinian Factions Discuss Exacerbated Conditions in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian refugee Walid Abu Riya Secretly Held in Syrian Jail for 4th Year
- Self-Empowerment Courses Held for Palestinian Women in Rif Dimashq
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Named Karate Champion in Sweden

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Latest Developments

Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on Thursday paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp and inspected works to repair AlShuhadaa Cemetery and remove rubble from residential alleyways.

PLO representative in Syria Tawfiq AlTirawi, also member of Fatah's Central Committee, dubbed the situation in Yarmouk tragic and calamitous, adding that debris-clearance and reconstruction are likely to take long months to be finalized.



AlTirawi also said that infrastructure in the camp sustained severe damage and that the Syrian authorities have been discussing possible ways to reconstruct destroyed facilities and premises.

In a Thursday meeting held in Damascus, representatives of the Coalition of Palestinian Factions briefed different parties about the recent Moscow talks and underway contacts with Damascus governor, PLO departments, and UNRWA to rehabilitate the camp and smooth civilians' return to their homes.



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In a similar visit paid to Damascus on February 19, member of PLO's Executive Committee Abbas Zaki and Tawfiq ALTirawi discussed with Syrian officials the situation in Yarmouk Camp.

Over recent months, Palestinian families displaced from Yarmouk Camp have called on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and press ahead with reconstruction projects.



The family lashed out at the apathy maintained by the concerned Syrian authorities and humanitarian institutions regarding their repeated cries for help.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched on April 21, 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Walid Abu Riya has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian state prisons for the fourth year running.

Walid, a father of three children, was kidnapped on November 26, 2015 on his way to Damascus to receive treatment for head injuries



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he sustained while repairing a power breakdown in Khan Eshieh Camp.

His family has frequently appealed to the Palestinian ambassador and factions to take serious steps in order to pressurize the Syrian authorities to disclose his condition and whereabouts and release him at the soonest time possible.

Nearly 1,730 Palestinian refugees have been secretly locked up in Syrian state dungeons, among them 100 residents of Khan Eshieh Camp.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee from Syria Assem Husam AlDeen Taleb was honored as the champion of the Swedish Open Karate Championship, staged on Saturday, February 19.

On December 23, 2016, Assem won the top prize at a Karate championship in Sweden and a gold medal, the fourth of its kind, at the contest.





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In the meantime, educational courses and a psychological support program have been staged by Aidoun group in Jaramana Camp, AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, and Jdeidat Artouz, in Rif Dimashq.

Courses in handicrafts and sewing along with psychosocial support activities aiming at strengthening self-esteem and self-empowerment were conducted. Over 25 Palestinian women and girls took part in the courses.

Aidoun is an independent Palestinian NGO active in Syria and Lebanon. Its objectives encompass defending Palestinians' right of return to their homeland.