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# التقرير اليومى

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Palestinians from Syria Rally Outside of PLO Office in Gaza

- Palestinian Family Denies Syrian Regime Released Their Son
- Migrants Subjected to Increasing Human Rights Abuses in Greece
- Aid Items Distributed to Palestinian Orphans in Damascus



#### **Latest Development**

A vigil was held by the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinians from Syria in Gaza to push for urgent humanitarian action regarding the squalid situation in the besieged enclave.

Palestinian refugees have called on the PLO to work out their ambivalent legal status, grant them national identity cards, provide them with housing grants, and greenlight their access to governmental jobs.

The families also continue to urge UNRWA to hand them over food allowances and cash grants.

Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.



NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In another development, the family of Palestinian refugee Yousef Mohamed Maw'ed denied reports that the Syrian regime released their relative from prison.

Yousef has been forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime for the ninth consecutive year.

Despite the recent decree issued by Syria's president Bashar AlAsad giving a general amnesty to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022, the Syrian regime has not confirmed its intention to include Palestinian prisoners in the general pardon.

The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.

AGPS urges the Syrian regime to issue an official statement in order to clarify to prisoners' families and human rights organizations whether it plans to include Palestinians in the pardon.

Palestinian Refugees Portal website said there are 2,389 Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons, most of them were arrested between 2012 and 2014.

The website called on the Palestinian Authority, Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Palestine Embassy in Damascus to follow up on the situation and pressurize the Syrian regime to



reveal information about the detainees' condition and whereabouts.

A few days earlier, Syrian military judge Ahmed Tozan told Sham FM radio station that the recently issued presidential amnesty decree includes Syrians exclusively, in accordance with the Syrian Nationality Law. Palestinians or any other nationalities are excluded from the pardon.

"I am the mother of a Palestinian refugee who was arrested in 2013, when he was aged 16. I call on the Syrian regime to update me about the condition and whereabouts of my son, especially following reports that the amnesty excludes Palestinian refugees", a mother told AGPS.

She called on embassy staff and the PLO to take serious steps in order to identify the fate of her forcibly-disappeared son.

Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad's government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

In the meantime, incidents of racist violence have been increasingly reported among Palestinian refugees and other asylum seekers in Greece.

Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees said they were heavily beaten by Greek coast guards after they crossed the Evros River, on the Greek-Turkish borders.

Testimonies by the Consolidated Rescue Group confirmed that migrants were subjected to money and property theft by the Greek



coast guards. A refugee was forced to eat sand before he was aggressively beaten. Another refugee was strangled with a phone charger.

The Group added that 300 migrants were detained for one day in a dirty place before they were forced to cross the river and return to Turkey on the following day.

Greece has seen a massive influx of migrants since 2015, with thousands of people from war-torn countries like Syria seeking safety there. They either cross the Aegean Sea to get to the small southeast European country or its land border with Turkey.

In the meantime, the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief distributed meat portions to a number of families sheltered in Yarmouk Camp and Qudsaya town, south of Damascus.

The Association also distributed cash grants to 34 orphans in Palestinian displacement camps in Syria.

The eleven-year Syrian war has had a tragic impact on Palestinian refugees sheltered in the country.

Unemployment, debts, high levels of poverty, overcrowded dwellings, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and economic hardship have had a heavy toll on the Palestinian refugee community in the war-torn country.

According to UNRWA, the full humanitarian impact of the conflict remains impossible to catalog. Once again, Palestine refugees found themselves engulfed in a cycle of conflict and displacement that exacerbates their underlying vulnerability.