

24-02-2020

No. 2680

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees from Syria Rally Outside of Cairo Embassy"

- Yarmouk Camp Excluded from New Reconstruction Plan
- Condition of Palestinian Refugees in Syria's AlHusainiya Camp Exacerbated by Power Crisis
- Palestinian Activist Ali AlMuslih Secretly Held in Syrian Jails for 7th Year



## **Latest Developments**

A number of Palestinian refugees from Syria gathered outside of the Palestine Embassy in Cairo to speak out against their deteriorating living condition and frail legal status.

The refugees lashed out at the embassy staff and the ambassador whom they said refused to receive them at his office and follow up on their situation.

The refugees called on the concerned authorities to register their names at the UNHCR and to treat them as refugees fleeing war and prosecution.

Palestinian refugees from Syria are treated as "tourists" by the Egyptian authorities, a label that continues to rob them of their right to protection.



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, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.

Due to difficulties in obtaining legal visas, a number of Palestinian refugees have found no other channels than to embark on illegal cross-border journeys in an attempt to join their families and relatives. Blackmails, property-thefts, starvation, and death threats have all been reported all the way through such life-threatening trips.

Those who get caught by Egyptian security forces are often pushed back to other destinations.

In another development, a pro-government source in Syria said the old Yarmouk camp will not be included in new reconstruction plans, adding that the displaced families will be allowed to return to the camp within four months.

According to the same source, debris-clearance works will be resumed in the camp sometime soon.



Member of Damascus Executive Office Samir Jazerli said the old Yarmouk Camp has a legal specificity and is directly supervised by



the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees. Therefore, property ownership in the camp can only be proved by means of official documents, including a residence permit or a court order.

Given the above mentioned conditions, Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment, cannot be put into effect, he said.

The Syrian official also stated that Yarmouk Camp is uninhabitable due to the damage wrought by violent shootouts on buildings and on the infrastructure, particularly power, water, and sanitation networks.

Scores of other stranded families fled the camp following the 33-day military operation launched by the government forces on April 19, 2018. The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following the operation. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

A few months earlier, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) published the results of an assessment of the damage to Syrian cities caused by seven years of relentless bombardment by the incumbent regime and its allies since 2011.

The analysis found out that as many as 5,489 buildings were destroyed in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees. The damage atlas used satellite-detected damage analysis to identify buildings that are either destroyed, or severely or moderately damaged.



In the meantime, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced the chronic power blackouts rocking the area, saying power has been cut across a number of residential neighborhoods for almost three weeks.

Civilians slammed the apathy maintained by the concerned authorities as regards their appeals for urgent action.



Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

Meanwhile, Palestinian activist and journalist Ali Muslih has been enduring a mysterious fate in Syrian state jails for the seventh consecutive year.

Ali was kidnapped on January 11, 2013. He is a resident of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq.

1,787 Palestinian refugees have been locked up in Syrian government dungeons, according to AGPS data.