



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



**"AGPS: Over 630 Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Prisons"**

- Palestinian Refugee Missing in Damascus
- Syrian Authorities Ban Opening of Commercial Shops in Yarmouk Camp
- Residents of AlHusainiya Camp Denounce Bread Shortage
- UNRWA Delays Aid Delivery to Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

AGPS has recorded the death of at least 631 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government penitentiaries, among them minors and elderly people.

Three victims were pronounced dead in early 2021.

AGPS believes the number is far higher due to the gag orders enforced by the Syrian regime on the detainees' fates and names, along with the reluctance of the casualty's families to reveal the names of their deceased or missing relatives for fear of retaliation.

Most of the victims' bodies have been withheld by the Syrian authorities, which is prohibited under international law except in cases where pillage and mistreatment are feared to occur.

The Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Convention, and the Rome Statute consider the despoliation and mistreatment of dead bodies war crimes.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or



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Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Samir Mohamed Lafi, born in 1981, disappeared from AlSabina Camp, in Rif Dimashq, some ten days ago.

His family continues to appeal for information over his condition and whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the Syrian authorities continue to ban shopkeepers in Yarmouk Camp from reopening their shops.

Palestinian refugees told AGPS that Syrian security forces have prevented shopkeepers from unlocking their stores and groceries to sell food items in order to provide for their families.

Some 200 families have remained in Yarmouk Camp. Scores of 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 the area 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.

Last year, 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.



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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.

Along similar lines, residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have sounded distress signals over the acute dearth in bread.

Hundreds of civilians continue to line up daily in long queues and under scorching heat outside of local ovens or to walk for long distances in the hunt for bread packs to feed their starved children.

Offensives launched on the camp using MIG warplanes led to the death of dozens of civilians in AlHusainiya Camp and a massive material destruction. Bloody shootouts between the opposition outfits and the Syrian government forces culminated in the latter's takeover of the camp on October 9, 2013.

In the meantime, UNRWA delayed transfer of the June cash grants to Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

UNRWA's Beirut Chief Nuha Hamoud said cash aid covering June and July will be transferred in July due to financial problems.

Last month, UNRWA raised alarm bells over the dire situation of Palestine refugees in Lebanon and the precariousness in which they live, particularly in the last year of acute financial crisis and pandemic. Many Palestine refugees live in 12 overcrowded camps across the country.





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“Palestine refugees are suffering immensely. The misery that I witnessed in the last two days in Ein el-Hilweh and Nahr el-Bared camps is unfathomable,” said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini during his visit to the country earlier this year.

Palestine refugees in Lebanon, including those who fled from Syria, need financial assistance to buy food and other basic necessities. But with the current financial crisis, most Palestine refugees have found themselves slipping further into destitution. The “dollar crisis” in Lebanon, where the official exchange rate of the US dollar against the Lebanese pound is nearly ten times lower than the black-market rate, has seen the purchasing power of the refugees slashed tenfold.