



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



"Thousands of Palestinian Students Facing Serious Challenges in Syria"

- 3 Palestinian Refugees Arrested by Syrian Security Forces
- Missile Slammed Into Vicinities of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Campaign against Stray Dogs Launched in Syria's Palestinian Refugee Camps

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Latest Developments

More than eight years of deadly warfare have imperiled the quality of education and access to educational facilities in the ravaged Syrian territories. Palestinian schoolchildren and university students continue to strive for academic careers that match their dreams for a better future, AGPS said on the International Day of Education, celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly on 24 January.

As a case in point, AGPS documented a sharp nosedive in access to education for Palestinians sheltered in Daraa refugee camp, south of Syria, where over 500 learners have been attending classes at alternative schools after all of UNRWA's educational premises in the camp have been destroyed or put out of operation as a result of heavy shelling.



A number of education facilities have also been turned into prisons or field hospitals, imperiling Palestinians' academic careers.

At the same Children taking refuge in Yarmouk Camp have to walk daily for several kilometers to join their schools in AlZahira neighborhood.



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Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.

The situation has been just as alarming for some 200 students sheltered in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo. Classes are taught at an abandoned building that was destroyed in the conflict and which is neither equipped with heating material nor with school furniture.

Displaced Palestinian families north of Syria have also sounded the alarm over their children's lack of access to education as a result of the enforced deportation they have been subjected to.

They said even the private school established in the area is made up of poorly equipped tents that are not fit to study in and risk to fall into pieces in the winter season. Neither professional training staff nor proper furniture are available at the school. Students often find no other choice than to sit on the floor in order to attend lectures and jot down notes.

In 2018, only 250 Palestinian children attended classes in Deir Ballout camp. Nearly 1,500 others taking refuge in AlMuhammadiya and Deir Ballout camps could not join school.

However, several displaced Palestinian students have achieved outstanding academic results, despite the traumatic effects of the Syrian warfare. Nearly 50,000 Palestinian children have been attending classes in Syria.

At the same time, dozens of Palestinian teaching staff members have been arrested and sent to jail.

AGPS continues to appeal to the Palestine Liberation Organization and UNRWA, among all concerned institutions, to urgently step in



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and work on reconstructing destroyed schools, providing schoolchildren with the needed psycho-physical protection, and boosting children's access to education in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

In another development, three residents of Khan Eshieh camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, were arrested by the Syrian security forces.

An AGPS reporter said security forces from the Saasaa Branch arrested the three residents who came back to Syria from Lebanon last year.

AGPS has not revealed their names at their families' request. Their families said they have no criminal convictions.

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,760 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups. Some 330 refugees have also gone missing in the country.

Lists of hundreds of forcibly disappeared Palestinian refugees and victims in Syria are available on AGPS website, both in English and Arabic. AGPS supplies a database of their names and the possible times and places of their arrest.

Meanwhile, a number of missiles rocked the vicinities of Aleppo's AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees. No injuries were reported among civilians.



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Activists said the missiles were most probably unleashed by opposition outfits. Sounds of blasts and heavy shootouts between the Syrian government forces and opposition squads have also been spotted in Aleppo.

All the way through Syria's nine-year war, AlNeirab Camp has been a hotbed for munitions stores and arms depots surrounding the area from all sides.



The government-led camp has also been a breeding ground for deadly hostilities due to its strategic proximity to AlNeirab Military Airport.

In the meantime, local authorities in AlSayeda Zeinab, Hjeira, AlSabina, AlHusainiya, and AlDhiabiya, home to hundreds of Palestinian refugee families, have embarked on a campaign to eliminate stray dogs from the area.

Over recent years, Palestinian refugees have raised concerns over their children's safety as packs of feral dogs have been spotted in and around Syria's Palestinian refugee camps.