



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: 616 Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Jails"

- Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Denounce Mistreatment by Bank Staff
- Maintenance Works Ongoing in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Fuel Supplies Distributed in Handarat Camp for Palestinian Refugees

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Latest Developments

AGPS documented the death of 616 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government prisons since the outburst of the bloody warfare.

Updated statistics by AGPS indicate that 1,780 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held behind Syria's prison bars, among them 109 women and girls along with dozens of minors.

Field reporters believe the real numbers to be far higher due to the government's reticence to reveal the names and fates of Palestinian captives and the families' fears to disclose their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.



The list of victims includes activists, volunteers, medics, engineers, academics, journalists, university students, and artists.

Recently, the Syrian Association for the Missing and Detainees released seven sets of photos purporting to show new victims of torture in Syrian government prisons.

The pictures are available on www.safmcd.com and

www.facebook.com/safmcd



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In April 2014, nearly 55,000 images of 11,000 victims of torture, including women and children, were leaked by a military police photographer, codenamed Caesar.

Following a probe launched by AGPS into Caesar's leaked snapshots, the group identified 77 victims as Palestinian refugees.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian refugees have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

AGPS believes that such practices represent flagrant violations of international law which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against civilians.

Such practices particularly breach the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to cease all forms of torture against captives and to disclose the condition and whereabouts of hundreds of Palestinian refugees held in its penal complexes.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have called on UNRWA to take urgent action in response to the mistreatment they have reportedly been subjected to by the staff members of Bank MED.



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The refugees denounced the reluctance maintained by the Bank regarding their appeals to retrieve their credits following a technical problem in the bank's ATM cards.

Last week, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon said they have been unable to withdraw financial aid disbursed by UNRWA from local banks due to technical problems. A number of refugees said their ATM cards were automatically rejected.

UNRWA continues to transfer cash aids for the Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon via ATM cards. Every Palestinian family from Syria receives a rental allowance of 150,000 Lebanese pounds and a food allowance worth 40,000 LP per every refugee.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria seeking shelter in Lebanon have been subjected to dire socio-economic conditions and a precarious legal status as the Lebanese authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for legal visas and access to the local labor market.

In another development, pro-government sources in Syria said excavation works have been ongoing west of Yarmouk Camp to repair the main water tank in the area.

Reports have also emerged on upcoming rubble-clearance works in the ravaged camp.

Activists said members of the Palestine Liberation army are expected to be deployed in the area over security concerns. A celebration will reportedly be held as soon as the southern area is opened up before civilians wishing to return to their homes and



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remove debris from local buildings, pending rubble-clearance works across the main access roads and residential alleyways.



The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 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.

A number of activists and residents attempting to reach their homes in Yarmouk have been denied access into the area by Syrian government troops deployed at the main entrances to the camp. Reports of theft have also emerged.

In the meantime, fuel supplies have been distributed in Aleppo's Handarat Camp for Palestine refugees, north of Syria. Lists of concerned families were prepared sometime earlier using smart cards.

Some 50 registered families reportedly received 100 liters of fuel each. The price of fuel set by the Syrian government is 18,000 Syrian Pounds per liter.



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However, dozens of cash-strapped families could not purchase fuel. The bulk of civilians have been deprived of fuel reserves needed for cooking and heating, with the advent of a freezing winter.

Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. Most of the families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other areas in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

