

27-05-2020

No. 2773

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



" Hundreds of Palestinian Refugees Spend Eid Festival behind Syria's Prison Bars"

- Rights Group Warns of COVID-19 Propagation in Syrian Prisons
- Yarmouk Camp Residents Lash Out at PLO Official for Showing Off Aid Distribution
- 312 Palestinian Refugees Gunned Down by Snipers in War-Torn Syria



## **Latest Developments**

Palestinian prisoners in Syria and their families have been deprived of the joy of Eid in the war-torn country, where thousands of civilians have been killed and thousands more have fallen prey to enforced disappearance.

The daughter of elderly Palestinian woman Shamsa Rashdan said she has not met her mother and sister who have been kept in jail since April 23, 2013.

Over 1,700 Palestinian refugees, including 42 minors and six infants below the age of 6, have been held behind Syria's prison bars.

"We have not celebrated Eid for years. We miss our father so much", wrote a prisoner's son on his Facebook account.

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

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.



Meanwhile, "nophotozone" organization has warned of the dangerous repercussions of COVID-19 outbreak in Syrian jails, saying it has recorded serious infringements by the terrorism court.

The organization said the infringements come at a time when calls have been increasingly launched to urge the Syrian government to release sufficient numbers of detainees to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks leading to yet more loss of life and misery after nine years of unrelenting death, destruction of the health system and displacement.

It added that though the Syrian government is considering issuing a mass amnesty to reduce the number of inmates, there has been increasing suspicions about its intent to release prisoners from Sednaya penal complex.

The organization has called for an immediate visit by the International Red Cross Committee to all detention centers and lock-ups in Syria and for urgently providing prisoners with the necessary checks and hygiene kit.

In another development, photos circulated on Facebook have sparked rage after they showed the director of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department in Damascus, ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, posing for a photo during the distribution of small amounts of money to displaced children in Yarmouk refugee camp.



Palestinian refugees and activists said the photos violate children's dignity and offend their innocence, calling on the ambassador and the PLO to rather work on facilitating civilians' return to their homes in Yarmouk and push for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Syrian jails.

In the meantime, AGPS has documented the death of 312 Palestinian refugees after they were fatally shot by snipers in the war-ravaged Syrian territories, mostly in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

As many as 4,048 Palestinian refugees have been pronounced dead in the Syrian warfare, according to AGPS figures.