



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

02-07-2020

No. 2809

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Another Palestinian Refugee Identified in Leaked Photos of Torture Victims in Syria

- Palestinian Refugee Mahmoud Tamim Secretly Detained in Syria since 2013
- New Refugee Camp Established in Lebanon
- Netherlands Re-Examines Visa Applications by Refugees from



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Latest developments

Another Palestinian family has identified their missing relative—Basel Nabil Kherma, forcibly disappeared in Syrian government prisons since 2012—in a series of photos leaked by the so-called Caesar breakaway

The victim was arrested during a military conscription term with the Palestine Liberation Army, affiliated with the Syrian regime. He was aged 19 at the time and accused of affiliations with opposition groups.

Horrific photos showing thousands of people who were tortured to death in Syrian government penitentiaries were leaked by a military police photographer, codenamed Caesar.

AGPS has recorded the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, including 110 women and girls.

A report released by AGPS on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture documented the death of over 620 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government penitentiaries, among whom minors and elderly detainees.

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.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity.

On 12 December 1997, by resolution 52/149, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Mohamed Tamim, aged 58, has been locked up in Syrian government dungeons for seven years running.

The refugee, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, was kidnapped by Syrian security forces on August 3, 2013 and was transferred to an unknown destination. His condition and whereabouts remains shrouded in mystery.

AGPS has kept record of the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government dungeons, among them 110 women and girls.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

In another development, the Palestinian International Charitable Organization has installed a new camp to shelter displaced Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The organization's director, Ramadan Tanboura, said a so-called "Falah 4" has been established in an attempt to tone down the calamitous situation of displaced refugees.

The Charity has also embarked on the excavation of a water well to provide the residents with water supplies.

Data by the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) indicates that the majority of Palestinian refugees, particularly those fleeing war-torn Syria (PRS), continue to face dire conditions and high vulnerability in Lebanon.

According to information collected by UNRWA, 95 per cent of PRS are food insecure, while about 89 per cent of PRS live in poverty. 36 to 57 per cent of PRS youth face unemployment.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

UNRWA said PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. According to the Agency's monitoring data, around 55 percent of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention and being issued a departure order.

The self-restriction of movement puts a strain on PRS' access to basic services, livelihoods and the formal labor market. In addition, a new policy implemented by the Ministry of Labor to limit informal and illegal labor by foreign workers has affected PRS and has resulted in the closure of several shops and businesses.

In the meantime, the Dutch Migration and Naturalization Department said it has re-assessed thousands of asylum applications submitted by refugees from Syria before 2015.

Dutch media outlets said among the 12,570 examined cases none has been found by the Migration Department guilty of war crimes. At the same time, some 63 cases require further investigation, 55 cases among which have been closed due to the absence of authentic evidence and seven cases have remained unresolved. One refugee has had his visa rescinded.

Thousands of Syrian refugees have reached Europe and told stories of horrific crimes they have experienced and witnessed. Investigators and prosecutors in different European states have begun looking at a number of individuals, who have also made their way to these countries after allegedly committing murder and mistreatment in Syria. The refugees are providing authorities in the host states with details of what happened and identities of those responsible.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

With the Syrian war now in its tenth year, horrific human suffering has been documented by activists and posted on the internet for the world to see. Palestinian refugees taking shelter in the war-torn country have been severely affected by such a traumatic experience: Thousands have been forcibly disappeared in state-run penal complexes; scores of others have been tortured, including hundreds to death; Dozens of families have gone homeless and lost their property; And Children have been economically and sexually abused.