



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



### "Palestinian Professor Mahmoud Hamid Launches Ground-Breaking Project in Wood Industry"

- Palestinians from Syria Denied Family Reunification in Germany
- Palestinian Doctor Nizar Kassab Forcibly Disappeared in Syria
- UAE Contributes US\$ 12.5 Million to Palestine Refugees

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian professor Mahmoud Ahmad Hamid has initiated an international research project in Sweden that is expected to revolutionize wood industry.

The project aims to develop natural adhesives used in the manufacture of compressed wood, instead of the petroleum glues currently exposed in the market.

Speaking with Radio Sweden, the professor said that the petroleum materials used in the furniture industry might cause cancers and other diseases in case of uncontrolled exposure to heat.

Hamid works at his office in Helsingborg, in southern Sweden, which brings together three institutions to recycle discarded materials and develop eco-friendly products.



Last month, Hamid received an international patent for an alternative bio glue.

He received his Ph.D. in wood technology and industry in 2000 from the University of George August in Göttingen, Germany, and served as a visiting professor at the university, before he arrived in Sweden in 2014.



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Hamid was born on March 17, 1967 in Damascus. He was the head of the Department of Environment and Renewable Resources at Damascus University until 2014 and fled to Europe after the outbreak of the Syrian war. He supervised dozens of graduation projects at a number of universities.

In another development, hundreds of Palestinian families from Syria who have sought shelter in Germany have sounded distress signals over delays in the family reunification process, which they said often lasts for over three years.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Germany have been separated from their families who have remained in Syria or fled to Lebanon, Turkey, or Egypt, where rental fees reportedly hit \$450 per month. The situation is exacerbated by the price leap and the frailty of the refugees' legal status.

The German Migration Office has attributed the delay in family reunification procedures to difficulties in coping with the simmering pressure exerted on its staff members.

Palestinian refugees say, however, that the delay makes part of a closed-doors immigration policy pursued by the German government to rein in the influx of refugees to the country.

Palestinians from Syria in Germany are categorized as stateless refugees, according to the German law. The Geneva Convention stipulates that Germany grant nationality to those categorized as stateless refugees, in accordance with the German Nationality Law of 2000.



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Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Nizar Jawdat Kassab has been secretly jailed in Syria for the eighth year running.

Nizar, a genitourinary surgeon, was arrested at a government checkpoint pitched near Yarmouk's entrance on December 16, 2012.

Palestinian medics and relief activists have been permanently targeted by the Syrian government forces on claims of assisting opposition affiliates. Several relief workers and volunteers died under torture in government lock-ups.

Medical staff and structures in besieged Yarmouk Camp came under heavy shelling by the government squads. Dozens of doctors, pharmacists, and paramedics have been pronounced dead in the raging warfare and dozens more have been forcibly disappeared in the country.

In the meantime, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has donated a contribution of US\$ 12.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

“This extraordinary financial contribution will help the Agency continue to provide critical humanitarian services and operations for the remainder of 2019 in the areas of primary healthcare, education and social services across its five fields of operation”, said UNRWA in a statement on Thursday.

UNRWA said this is the second contribution by the UAE to the Agency this year and is one of four disbursements totaling US \$ 50 million.





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“This generous donation could not have come at a more important time for the Agency and for Palestine refugees,” said UNRWA Acting Commissioner-General Christian Saunders. “UNRWA is doing all it can to overcome the worst financial crisis in its 70 year history.”

“I am hopeful that this strong demonstration of trust in UNRWA will encourage others to support the crucial work of the Agency,” said UNRWA’s Acting Commissioner-General.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. As a result, the UNRWA program budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

