



مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Center



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

PALESTINIANS OF SYRIA

BETWEEN DISPLACEMENT AND DISAPPEARANCE

Mid-annual field report of Palestinians of Syria Conditions
from 1 January until 30 June 2016

Compiled by
A team of field researchers

Edited by
Ibrahim Al-Ali
Tarek Hamoud



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INTRODUCTION

Palestinian camps inside Syria have been facing demolition after displacement has affected most Palestinian refugees in Syria due to the ongoing conflict.

In some camps such as Sbeina and Handarat, residents have been completely displaced, while in others, 50% or more have vacated the camp. Yarmouk Camp for instance, was one that was inhabited by about 220,000 people before the beginning of the war in 2011. It is now inhabited by less than 3,000 people. More than half of the residents in Khan Eshieh Camp have been displaced leaving 12,000 from what used to be 22,000 prior to the war. Most of the displaced are scattered throughout areas controlled by the Syrian regime, and areas controlled by the opposition. Other refugees have chosen to flee to neighbouring countries, Europe, East Asia, and the Americas.

This report is a record of the most significant events that have befallen the Palestinian camps and compounds in Syria between January and June 2016. The camps have been targeted by gunfire and bombings, besieged, experienced civilian casualties and had its men and young people detained. The report also highlights the general situation of Palestinian refugees inside and outside Syria in all its respects: social, economic, relief, health and legal. The AGPS has been monitoring these events through its team of special researchers and field correspondents that adopt scientific methodology to document victims of war among Palestinian refugees.

Until March 2011, Palestinian refugees in Syria made up around 2.6% of the population in Syria. Palestinian refugees are subject to laws and regulations that govern their relationship with Syrian society. They enjoy many of the same civil rights with the exceptions of voting and running in elections, thereby having the same rights in business, work, education, and other aspects of life as their Syrian counterparts. It can therefore, be difficult to separate the suffering of Syrian society from the Palestinian refugee community in Syria by virtue of the level of community integration.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Palestinian refugees in Syria have suffered from the consequences of economic downturn, which has arisen due to ongoing violence for the last five years and counting. A study conducted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) revealed that 83.4% of Syria's population live below the poverty line, as compared to 28% in 2010. 13.5 million people, including six million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria by late 2015, compared to only one million in June 2012. The report states that, more than 4 million people are living in Damascus, its suburb, and the province of Aleppo, where more than two-thirds of the Palestinian refugees in Syria also live. GDP of agriculture in Syria has declined by 60% between 2010 and 2015. As a result, the price of food has dramatically increased, especially since 2014. The price of one ton of flour in Damascus was US\$444 in 2015; more than three times that of the global average of US\$157.70.

EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS

Education suffered greatly during the period in question. Many schools closed and the percentage of those who should have been in school dropped from 95% before the war to less than 75% in 2015⁽¹⁾.

UNRWA announced on its website that a large percentage of Palestinian students in Syria were forced to leave school due to increased levels of poverty. Unemployment has been high and students have to find ways to pay for food as well as finding alternative accommodation.

Education is one of the most important services provided by UNRWA to Palestinian refugees in Syria. The education program in Syria was responsible for running 118 schools for basic educational needs prior to the war, but only 42 schools remain in operation. This is in addition to 43 additional schools provided by the Ministry of Education and other Syrian sources, according to UNRWA. The conflict in Syria has thus reduced the opportunities of young people and children's access to education. The fear of arrest or assassination by many high school students is one of the main obstacles that hinder educational progress among young people and prevent them from performing general examinations.

(1) For more details see the Mid-2015 report of the Palestinians of Syria on Life Paths on the AGPS, <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/pdf/20156.pdf>

HEALTH INDICATORS

The health sector was generally impacted in Syria because many hospitals stopped working. Only 170 hospitals remained in tact out of 493 in 2010, 34% went out of service, 14% were partially in operation, and 165 hospitals had been destroyed by 2015.

The systematic targeting of health facilities led to doctors and health workers fleeing the country. In 2015 there was only one doctor for every 1,442 people, compared to one doctor for 661 people in 2010.

This decline in health services coupled with the the targeting of health facilities was reflected in the country's public health indicators. Death rates reached 10,900 people in 2015 compared to 3.7 in 2010.⁽²⁾ Health conditions for Palestinians have therefore, rapidly deteriorated in the first half of 2016. This is not limited to those health conditions in the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus. It is a result of the acute shortage of medical services, because of the continued siege imposed by the regular army and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP- GC) groups.

The camp's main hospitals were bombed which led to major damage and stoppage of work, where hundreds of residents were affected by multiple diseases, notably jaundice disease and anemia caused by malnutrition.⁽³⁾

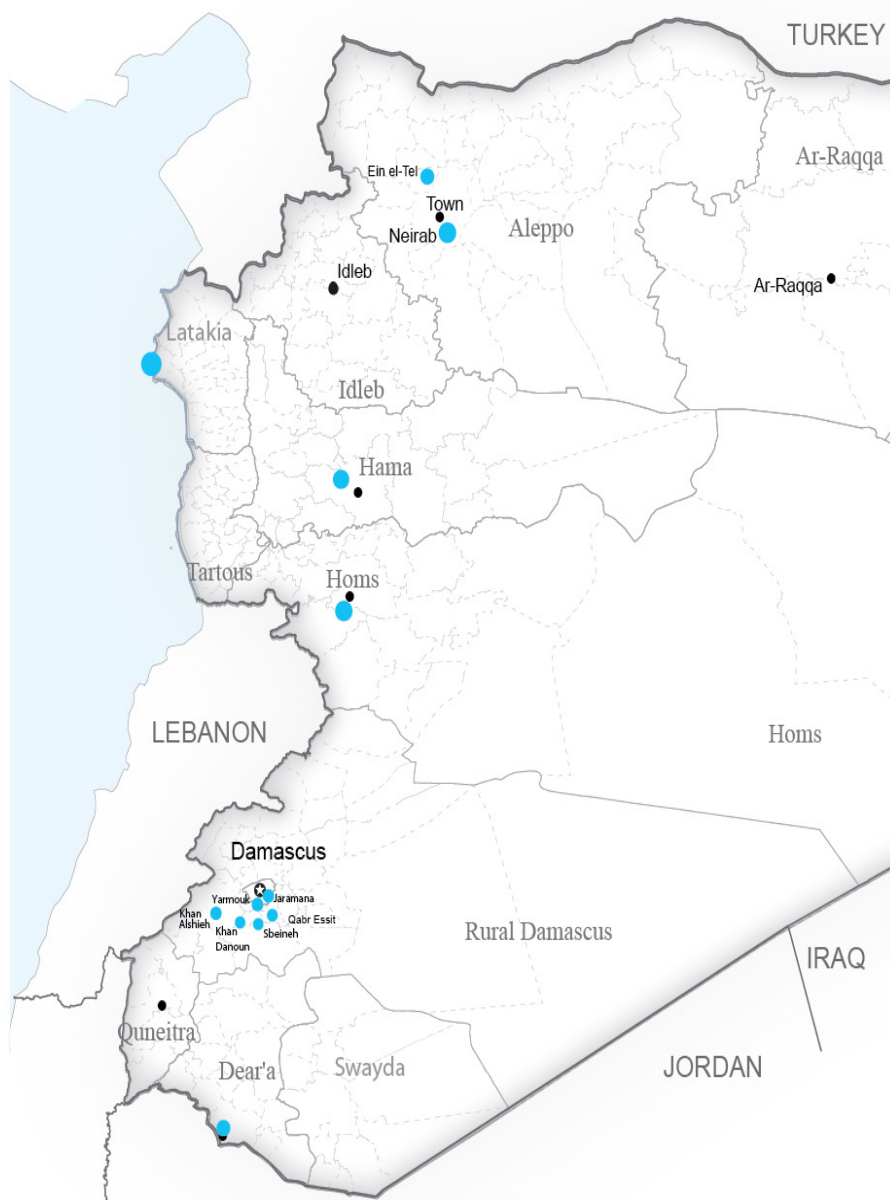
(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.

syria: palestine refugee camps



The unofficial camps are: Yarmouk, Latakia, and Ein el-Tal



Sources: Palestine Refugees [UNRWA]

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS AND COMPOUNDS

Deterioration in conditions was experienced on all levels in the various Palestinian camps and compounds inside Syria - economic, social, health and educational.

As at the time of writing, the Yarmouk Camp was still witnessing an armed conflict between several parties, including ISIS and the former al Nusra group, inside the camp. Khan Eshieh Camp has almost vanished into the dust and smoke of the explosive barrels that target it and all that is around it, as well as bombing by the Syrian and Russian forces.

Qabr Essit or (Sayyedeh Zeinab Camp) has also been targeted with explosive devices, which has killed tens of people. Residents of Der'aa and Der'aa Altawarea camps in the south of Syria are living through the daily routine of targeting and deprivation that has been killing its residents. Also in the south of Syria, battles continued, imposing control over Handarat and Neirab camps in light of continuing fierce battles in Aleppo city.

1. PALESTINIAN CAMPS

THE YARMOUK CAMP

During the first three months of 2016, the Yarmouk Camp was exposed to shelling and sporadic clashes between ISIS and al Nusra Front on one side, and the regular army on the other. At the beginning of April 2016, events escalated when ISIS imposed its control over the Yarmouk Camp and expelled members of al Nusra from the camp. Disputes had intensified between them following an agreement between ISIS and the Syrian regime, which negotiated the withdrawal from Alhajar Alaswad area and the Yarmouk Camp. However, the Yarmouk Camp has remained besieged since mid-July 2013 by the regular army and the pro-regime Palestinian factions. Residents are prevented from entering and exiting the camp, as is the entry of humanitarian aid with an exception for the adjacent town of Yalda.

Al Nusra vs ISIS

- On 6 April 2016, violent clashes and confrontations broke out between members of al Nusra and ISIS inside Yarmouk after each group tried to impose military control over the camp. The clashes commenced after the dispute intensified following an agreement that was conducted between ISIS and the Syrian regime, which stated the withdrawal from the northern area towards the south of Syria. It was mentioned that al Nusra opposed this agreement and took military action to reinforce their intention to remain in Yarmouk.
- On 7 April 2016, clashes and the exchange of sniper fire broke out between ISIS and al Nusra. Both groups erected covering over several streets where they were positioned, designed to block out vision and protect themselves from sniper fire. They also dug holes in the walls of houses and shops at Loubeia Street allowing them to exchange gunfire. Clashes took place in the streets of Alkhamastaash, Haifa, Safed, and Ja'una inside the camp, where ISIS tried to cut off all supply lines of al Nusra from Alqadam in an adjacent area. As ISIS imposed control over Alorouba checkpoint, which separated the Yarmouk Camp and Yalda, dignitaries attempted to mediate to prevent further escalation.
- On 8 April 2016, a number of residents were injured. A child who was injured after they were shot in the leg on their way to school. An Emir of ISIS, Abu Ali Al Saedi, was seriously injured during clashes between ISIS and al Nusra. On 15 April 2016, Mohammed Deyab, was injured at Al Orouba Street, south-east of the camp after being shot in the head. An 8-year-old girl was also injured by a shot fired by a sniper at Abu Hashish square in the middle of the camp.
- On 11 April 2016, three Palestinian refugees died including Ahmed Hamdan, Mohammed Amayri and Mohamed Ali. Three of them died during clashes that broke out between ISIS and al Nusra. An AGPS correspondent also reported a number of deaths among the two warring parties and houses that were burnt at Haifa Street due to the use of Molotov bombs.
- On 20 April 2016, ISIS controlled large parts of the camp after they expelled al Nusra from several locations. According to an activist, members of al Nusra surrendered to ISIS, while another part of them left to go to Yalda town. The rest of them were besieged at Al Rija square, Yarmouk court, Shaker playground, Alyaman compound, and Masbah Albasel area.

- On 29 April 2016, the AGPS correspondent confirmed that ISIS raised more earth mounds in the vicinity of Almalkeya School in the Yarmouk Camp, where dozens of Nusra members were placed.
- On 3 May 2016, ISIS managed to impose control over several areas where al Nusra members were stationed.
- On 5 May 2016, sporadic clashes broke out between ISIS and Nusra. They used light weapons and mortar shells, while AGPS resources reported a number of deaths among the warring parties, in addition to some houses that were burnt at Safed Street.
- On 11 May 2016, al Nusra and the Yarmouk People's Movement proceeded towards the western area of the camp where al Ansar group were, they had pledged allegiance to ISIS. Al Nusra re-controlled many blocks behind Alaman medical compound, while a large number of ISIS members were killed during the clashes. Snipers of al Nusra spread in order to prevent ISIS from proceeding. ISIS tried to put more pressure at the end of Haifa Street, controlled by al Nusra after ISIS proceeded at Saforeia Street.
- On 12 May 2016, three members of the civil defense in the besieged Yarmouk Camp were injured after being targeted by a sniper who fired a shot in front of their main headquarter near the Yarmouk cemetery in the Altaqadom neighbourhood. They were transferred to Shaheed Almehrab hospital in Yalda town in order to receive treatment. The medical staff of the hospital reported that one of the injuries was critical. The bullet entered the abdomen and led to several injuries in the spleen and pancreas. Multiple injuries were endured in the intestine and in the chest via the diaphragm. The hospital confirmed further injuries in the limbs. The young man Khaled Alyan, one of the cadre members at Palestine Hospital, was known among the injured. Civil defense members accused Jaish al Islam of targeting them with snipers, but the group denied the charge saying the military sectors do not overlook the region.

Furthermore, Sham Alrasoul Brigade, one of the armed opposition groups, issued a statement, via its official Facebook page, declaring the complete cancellation of the agreement to supporting Yarmouk Camp after some of the signatories disclaimed and denied section V within it. According to the brigades, they also strictly prohibited all members of Sham Alrasoul to exit or enter into the Yarmouk Camp.

Section V, in the statement of Sham Alrasoul Brigade, states no member of the al Nusra can enter any of the sectors (Yalda, Babbila, and Beit Sahem). Further to this, they would not be responsible for the life of any of the group's

members who ignored this ban and try to enter the mentioned towns. This was one of the six items that were agreed upon by military factions and the towns of Yalda, Babbila, and Beit Sahem within an agreement that allowed the entry of fighters wanting to fight alongside al Nusra in its war against ISIS at Masbah Albasel area between the Yarmouk Camp and the town of Yalda.

- On 26 May 2016, violent clashes broke out in the Yarmouk refugee camp between al Nusra and ISIS, as the latter tried to control Ja'una Street in the camp. The clashes resulted in injuries among the two parties, while members of al Nusra did fend off an attack by ISIS groups trying to force their way through. Light and medium machineguns and Molotov were used during the clashes, while more explosive devices were planted in the homes of civilians. Meanwhile, the AGPS observed that ISIS seized the contents of Al Basel hospital in the Yarmouk Camp and transferred it into the adjacent area of Alhajar Alaswad. AGPS resources indicated that ISIS members made announcements in its controlled areas banning smoking in the streets, and distributed leaflets urging women to wear the hijab in public.
- On 27 May 2016, violent clashes broke out between al Nusra and ISIS following ISIS's attempt to break into an area where Nusra members were stationed, namely the Ja'una neighborhood in the east of the camp. Activists confirmed that fighters of Nusra used 14.5mm medium machineguns for the first time during the clashes. According to activists, this meant more destruction of houses of besieged and displaced residents, in addition to targeting the houses with grenades and firebombs. The two parties sought to gain corridors to hide within, away from snipers.
- On 30 May 2016, clashes broke out again between Nusra and ISIS in the vicinity of Masbah Albasel area, which was targeted with a rocket launched by ISIS against Nusra. After that, news travelled about new negotiations between the two parties to cease hostilities.
- On 2 June 2016, an unknown explosive device exploded at Alquds Street in the Yarmouk Camp, which led to the death of two former leaders in Nusra: Abu Bilal Hujaira and Firas Alqashi, as well as a number of other civilians. Resources from the Yarmouk Camp indicated that the injured were transferred to Almaydani hospital in Alhajar Alaswad area, an ISIS stronghold, in order to receive treatment, knowing that Al Quds Street area, where the explosive device was planted, is under the control of ISIS.

- On 8 June 2016, ISIS released a woman detained after she argued with ISIS members when they stopped her trying to reach her house in the besieged Yarmouk Camp. Eyewitnesses also reported that ISIS members shot three women in the camp and arrested one of them. She was transferred to and detained in Alhajar Alaswad. She was arrested because her husband was a fighter for al Nusra. Eyewitness accounts also exposed that ISIS arrested Hussein Salfiti in a public spectacle, leading him to an unknown destination without disclosing the reason for his arrest. Activists confirmed that there are detainees for ISIS who are still unaccounted for.
- On 9 June 2016, ISIS exploded one of its tunnels at Alkhamastaash Street near Alshatat block in the besieged Yarmouk Camp after it was revealed by al Nusra members. They blew up the tunnel to prevent al Nusra members using it in their battles with ISIS. Sporadic clashes broke out at Alkhamastaash Street between Nusra and ISIS in an attempt to impose their control over the street.
- Witnesses from inside the camp reported that ISIS members dug tunnels between residential buildings in areas controlled by al Nusra and the Yarmouk People's Movement - Buraq Brigade in preparation for exploding them. The two parties continued digging out people's homes and opening gaps in the walls for the discreet corridors inside buildings that kept them away from the sniper fire.
- On 18 June 2016, ISIS released Palestinian refugee Abu Raafat Awda several days after being kidnapped.
- On 22 June 2016, members of ISIS stole one of the main electricity generators in the Yarmouk refugee camp at Jarmak School. The generator supplied neighbouring houses with electricity, after the Syrian regime cut off power lines for more than three years.
- Palestinian refugee Essam Tamim, from the Yarmouk Camp was killed by ISIS snipers, as they had control over large areas of the camp.
- On 26 June 2016, ISIS tried to break into Jauna Street, controlled by Nusra. ISIS used Shilka tanks, burnt residential buildings and shops in the vicinity of Loubeia square at the entrance of Jauna neighbourhood. Researchers reported that Nusra used medium and heavy weapons in order to repel ISIS fighters, killing more than 20 members.
- ISIS in the meantime managed to proceed to the two buildings towards Jauna neighbourhood.

- Activists accused ISIS of coordinating with the Syrian regime, as they said that ISIS closed Palestine street for the second time and they put a huge earth mound in front of regime snipers and the soldiers of the Yarmouk municipality. According to activists, ISIS also separated some streets in order to tighten their grip on Jauna to implement their plan to deliver the camp in exchange for abandoning their advance toward Raqqa city.
- ISIS has been trying to break into the axes of Jauna, in order to impose full control over the neighbourhood. The two parties have been digging tunnels and trenches, using the houses of civilians to avoid snipers and planting explosive devices and burn hoses.
- On 29 June 2016, Nusra released the Palestinian refugee, Mohammed Mawed, after being detained for over five months.

Casualties

The number of documented casualties since the outbreak of clashes between ISIS and al Nusra, upto the time of preparing this report, reached 11 victims. Ahmed Hamdan, Mohammed Amayri, and Mohammed Ali died on 11 April 2016. Malek Othman died on 15 April 2016 by sniper fire. Mohammed Deyab, a resident of Al Taqadom neighborhood, died on 16 April 2016 in Alorouba area southwest of the camp after being shot in the head by a sniper. He was transferred to Almaydani hospital in the Yalda area in order to receive treatment; he was then transferred to a hospital in the capital, where he died from serious injuries. Mustafa Ghareib died from ongoing clashes between ISIS and Nusra; he is a member of Alzaateet group, a group who have pledged allegiance to ISIS.

Hisham Alzawawi, a member of the civil council in the Yarmouk Camp, also died after being targeted by ISIS snipers.

- Palestinian refugee, Samer Waleed Ghannam, died on 18 April 2016, from wounds sustained after shelling targeted the Yarmouk Camp. On 18 April 2016, news from Yarmouk was that ISIS assassinated a child. He was the son of one of its members who had defected and was killed as his punishment. ISIS members shot the child in his house. The child is the brother of the child Yahya Alasmar, also shot by ISIS snipers several days before.
- On 27 May 2016, refugee Mustaa Abbas died during ongoing clashes between ISIS and al Nusra in Yarmouk Camp.

- On 22 June 2016, refugee Isam Tameim, a resident of the Yarmouk Camp, also died by ISIS snipers.

Humanitarian Situation

During the first half of 2016, humanitarian conditions in the Yarmouk Camp deteriorated due to clashes between ISIS and al Nusra, which besieged dozens of families inside their houses at Haifa Street, Alkhamastaash Street, Alshatat area, Alquds mosque area, and Almadares Street. Civilians suffered from severe humanitarian conditions due to the scarcity of food, medication and water.

There were news reports that ISIS and al-Nusra had reached a daily truce via a civic delegation. This was to enable food and water to reach civilians. The truce was implemented for several days before it was broken by new clashes and confrontations between ISIS and al Nusra.

On 19 May 2016, news from inside Yarmouk refugee camp reported that ISIS had imposed new restrictions on besieged members of the camp, which they did because of their fight with al Nusra. Residents were therefore, trapped. A number of people confirmed that the ISIS checkpoints of Almadares Street (Yarmouk crossing), prevented the residents of Ain Ghazal neighbourhood to bring in bread, drinking water and cartons of food provided by UNRWA in the vicinity of the camp, in the town of Yalda. ISIS stopped besieged residents in other areas as well from bringing in food and other daily necessities, blaming al Nusra for the situation in the besieged areas and urging residents to demand that al Nusra leave Ja'una.

In turn, AGPS sources confirmed that ISIS and Nusra were systematically burning down homes of the camp. The two organisations burned the homes of Haifa Street and then Ja'una and Safed streets under the pretext of fighting between the two sides. Video and photos appeared on social media, showing members of ISIS using Molotov to burn down the houses.

Palestinian activists demanded that the free world urgently and immediately intervene in order to save Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, due to violent clashes that broke out on 7 April 2016 between ISIS and al Nusra.

The activists stressed the need to act in order to save the Yarmouk refugee camp. Residents were under the mercy of the warring parties, slaughtered and at risk of being completely cleansed. They also demanded international protection in order to save them “now before it is too late,” as described by the activists.

Statements and Appeals

Besieged residents of the Yarmouk Camp, human rights organisations and UNRWA issued statements and appeals, calling for the cessation of hostilities between ISIS and Nusra inside the Yarmouk Camp in order to spare civilian lives and reverse their dire humanitarian circumstances.

- On 12 April 2016, the remaining residents of Yarmouk launched an urgent appeal demanding ISIS and al Nusra stop fighting for six hours in order to allow trapped civilians leave for safer refuge to access basic needs. Residents also demanded that the Syrian regime and the pro-regime Palestinian factions re-pump drinking water into the camp, and stop using water as a weapon against innocent civilians. They stressed that this policy only affected civilians – the fact that clashes were continuing to the extent they were meant that the warring parties didn't lack weapons or ammunition - they were not affected by siege.

The statement also demanded the PLO, Palestinian factions and UNRWA, shoulder their responsibilities toward the suffering and “not to bury their heads with dust”.

It called on Syrian and Palestinian media and activists to be a voice in the face of thirst and hunger. In conclusion of the appeal, residents stressed that they are the party most affected by the hostilities and the overall situation remains fragile and any event could plunge them to “rock bottom”.

On 15 April 2016, UNRWA issued a press release, where spokesman Chris Gunness expressed concern about the humanitarian consequences of the violent armed conflict between extremist armed groups inside Yarmouk from 6 April 2016 onwards.

Gunness said: “It is painful to see another chapter of high tension and suffering imposed on civilians in Yarmouk Camp.” He explained that “the ongoing fierce fighting not only cause casualties and deaths among civilians, but it also sharply exacerbates food and drinking water shortages for about 6,000 families within the Yarmouk Camp.” UNRWA called concerned parties to cease hostilities and to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect the lives of civilians in Yarmouk Camp.

The AGPS received several distress calls from families who were stranded in areas of fighting in Yarmouk. They wanted to appeal to the warring parties and the Syrian regime to open roads and secure the delivery of water. There was no safe water to drink, not even water from artesian wells, which were purchased through special tanks.

Activists and residents confirmed that many families lived in Safed Street, Ja'una, Khamastaash, and Forn Abu Fouad Street. They refused to leave for fear that their homes would be looted as most of the camp's homes had been, especially those in western Yarmouk Street. These developments led AGPS to call on international and humanitarian institutions to apply more pressure to allow the entry of aid or to launch initiatives to stop the bloodshed.

The group also stressed the importance for all Palestinian and Syrian authorities to carry out their responsibilities both at home and abroad, and to make immediate efforts to stop the deteriorating situation inside the camp. The AGPS placed the Syrian regime directly responsible for the continuation of the siege, and thousands of Palestinian civilians as hostages for the ongoing situation in the country.

For his part, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Saeb Erekat, called on the international community and the UN to secure the immediate international protection for the people of the Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria. In a press statement, Erekat called on UNRWA and competent international and humanitarian bodies to provide humanitarian needs for the trapped people inside the camp. He added that our people are still paying the price of occupation and conflict wherever they are: at home, in exile and in refugee camps.

It is time to resolve their plight, reminiscent of the Nakba and its aftermath, which is still ongoing until today. There are still political and legal responsibilities of the international community towards the realisation of our inalienable rights. Bringing the occupation to courts that were never subject to international law, and the deterrent interventions pursuant to the provisions and values and the principles of international legitimacy.”

Health Situation

- During the first half of 2016, health indicators have rapidly deteriorated in the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus as a result of the acute shortage of medical services and because of the continued siege imposed by the regular army and PFLP-GC groups. The large hospitals of the camp were bombed, which resulted in major damage and led to their closure. Hundreds of residents suffered from disease including jaundice and anemia caused by malnutrition. The control of ISIS since the beginning of April 2015 exacerbated those situations, where ISIS forced most of the relief agencies inside the camp to leave towards Yalda, after assassinating many activists.

- Clashes that broke out between ISIS and Nusra in early April 2016 resulted in security tensions between ordinary people because of the difficulties including over treatment and access to drinking water. Consequently, on 9 January 2016, a number of medical staff and residents appealed to UNRWA and the Red Crescent, to provide needed drugs for typhoid fever and jaundice after medicine had run out. Diseases spread among residents, while medical staff warned of the consequences if permission for and movement of the necessary medicine and drugs into the camp waned..
- On 18 January 2016, a newborn baby died in the Yarmouk Camp due to lack of care and medical facilities. The child's family tried to get him help by taking him to the nearby town of Yalda, but they failed to rescue the child after waiting for the ambulance at the checkpoint that separates the Yarmouk Camp from the nearby towns.
- The AGPS monitoring and documentation team confirmed that 187 people in the Yarmouk Camp died as a result of the blockade and the lack of medical care, including 21 children and 163 adults, three years ago.
- The medical complex in the Yarmouk Camp revealed in a report on 2 March 2016, the first case of typhoid fever for this year and confirmed that the case was diagnosed on Thursday 25 February 2016 after conducting necessary clinical laboratory tests and analyses. The complex pointed out that the besieged Yarmouk refugee camp suffered last year from epidemical attack that spread through the camp and surrounding areas.
- The complex expressed concern about the spread of disease and epidemics that might ensue with the approach of summer, the continuous siege, the deterioration in medical conditions, and the lack of potable water. The complex appealed to all concerned to be prepared in order to control the problem before it should escalate through awareness campaigns, sterilisation of drinking water, and securing of antibiotics needed to combat the disease.
- The medical complex in the Yarmouk Camp also revealed in a report, the diagnosis of the first case of septic hepatitis A known as jaundice; the case was diagnosed on Wednesday 16 March 2016 after a five year-old child was examined. The centre said that disease and epidemics have been dormant in the winter but they may return with summer.
- The medical complex closed following the armed clashes in the camp. Activists warned on 3 March 2016 that the closure of medical centers inside the besieged camp (the charity medical complex and rescue surgical centre) would lead to more suffering.

- On 11 March 2016, Al Amal kindergarten in the Yarmouk Camp organised an activity to raise awareness of the importance of oral and dental health and its role in the overall health of the child. They held competitions and colouring activities, and distributed leaflets and free gifts.

Water Crisis

The suffering of the Yarmouk people was compounded by continuous water and power outages, prompting some to travel to neighbouring areas, which they had to do by foot at great risk to their lives, in order to bring in water. From 9 September 2014, the Syrian army and security forces stopped pumping water into the camp, which was previously done through the water network coming in from adjacent neighbourhoods. In response, relief organisations started work on reclamation and artesian wells.

Clashes broke out between ISIS and Nusra at the beginning of April 2016, worsening the water crisis as both parties imposed a curfew in the areas of fighting from 9 April 2016. This affected Loubéia, Jauna, Haifa, Saforeia, Khamastaash, and Safad Streets as snipers were positioned in these locations.

On 10 April 2016, the AGPS received letters from families who were stranded in the areas affected by fighting inside Yarmouk. They appealed to parties to the conflict and the Syrian regime to open roads and secure the delivery of water as they had no access to any potable water from any source.

Armed clashes and constant sniping prevented residents from leaving in order to bring water from distribution points. It prevented access to water from vendors in the area. Residents pointed out that these mobile cars were able to reach some areas falling under the control of ISIS after roads were secure.

Residents said their lives were in danger, as their houses were located in clash areas. ISIS and Nusra had been booby-trapping houses and streets in order to prevent members of ISIS accessing Nusra's controlled zones.

Moreover, residents confirmed that the water pump (immersion) of the Palestine garden had been stolen. The pump had been controlled by members of al Nusra. Residents spoke about the theft of another water pump from Jarmak alternative school, which was installed by Palestine Charity Committee, where a water well was rehabilitated. However, it stopped working after the pump had been stolen.

On 19 January 2016, volunteers from the Committee of the Yarmouk Camp, sterilised the water wells using sterilisation pills, provided by the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the medical section of UNRWA, as part of the ongoing campaign to reduce the pollution of water and to make it drinkable.

Education

During the first half of 2016, the education sector became significantly affected by events in Yarmouk due to continued shelling and clashes between various armed parties. Alternative schools started to open and did operate while unaffected by the deteriorating security situation in the camp.

On 25 February 2016, the Charity Organisation for the Relief of the Palestinian people provided about 900 science and literature textbooks for high school students at Abdel Kader Husseini School. Aid will be sought to meet the needs of students in light of the continued siege, imposed by the Regular Army and its affiliated groups, in addition to the control of ISIS and Nusra.

UNRWA announced on its website that a large percentage of Palestinian students in Syria had been forced to leave school due to mounting poverty and unemployment levels, which meant they had to focus on finding means to pay for food and alternative places to live. The conflict in Syria still has a direct impact on the education of Palestinian refugees living in the country. It dramatically decreases the chances of young people and children to attain an education. The fear has been that if a lot of high school students left the camp to take exams, they would be at risk of detention or assassination attempts, the biggest obstacles to the education of young people in the Yarmouk Camp.

Living Conditions

During the first half of 2016, residents of the Yarmouk refugee camp suffered from a humanitarian crisis that has lasted three years and counting. Basic needs such as food, fuel, water and electricity were lost due to the continued blockade of the camp. This impacted the health and psychological well-being of the camp.

The siege had led to dozens of deaths from malnutrition and lack of medicine. It prevented the introduction of medical supplies, as all hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics of the camp stopped working completely except for the Palestine hospital, which offered rudimentary medical services.

According to statistics, collected by AGPS, the number of casualties that have been caused as a result of the siege in the Yarmouk Camp, reached 187 victims.

- On 8 February 2016, activists warned of the spread of disease and epidemics in the Yarmouk refugee camp due to clogged sewers. Specialists confirmed that waste and human excreta gathering would lead to the spread of disease such as typhoid and cholera, threatening the lives of the besieged people in the camp, especially children.
- On 20 March 2016, the Services Office of the Yarmouk Camp in collaboration with the Syrian local council and civil defense implemented a campaign to spray insecticides in the alleys and lanes of the camp, after an infestation of insects.

High burial costs have also impacted those displaced from Yarmouk to neighbouring areas.

Reports have said that there are some graves that can only be rented for a limited time period. A tomb at Alhaqla cemetery in Damascus can cost 300,000 SYP, the equivalent of US\$800 for three years. After this period, the lease can be renewed or body can be moved to another tomb. The price of a grave in Albab Alsagheir cemetery in Damascus 1,300,000 SYP, the equivalent of US\$3,470. People have been forced to approach the Palestine Embassy in Damascus and demand that the ambassador intervene and request permission from the Syrian authorities and the armed factions that control the camp, so that the dead can be buried inside Yarmouk Camp. The embassy communicated with those concerned as they've agreed to bury the dead within Yarmouk.

The cost of burying the deceased inside Yarmouk refugee is comparatively less at 13,000-18,000 SYP, which is approximately US\$35-50. This covers the cost of digging, blocks, slabs to cover the grave, concrete and transport fees from Beit Sahem checkpoint to the entrance of Orouba Street. Although, even this amount is beyond the means of many due to the deterioration in economic conditions.

Significant Events

- On 11 January 2016, a new Palestinian military faction was formed called "People of Yarmouk". The new faction comprised of Palestinian militants from Yarmouk, either in or outside the camp, noting that the new formation is planning to deploy in the camp, according to balances affiliated with the Syrian armed opposition and the Syrian regime.

- On 15 January 2016 ,Nusra announced its intention not to get out of the southern region of the capital Damascus ,after accusing the Syrian regime of emptying the southern region of its people and its inhabitants.
- On 23 January 2016, sporadic clashes broke out at Alorouba area in the Yarmouk Camp between ISIS and al Nusra who control the camp, and besieged by the regular army and PFGC groups. Security tensions have apparently been witnessed throughout the camp as their presence is distributed widely throughout it. Al Nusra arrested two members of Fatah, Bahaa Alameen and Samer Al-Shalabi, for cooperating with the Syrian regime and the pro-regime General Command. They were subsequently released on 24 January 2016.
- On 6 February 2016, the Syrian regime and the pro-regime Palestinian factions targeted different parts of the Yarmouk Camp with rockets and mortar shells, causing damage to people's homes.
- On 2 March 2016, sporadic clashes broke out between ISIS and al Nusra after the latter arrested two members of ISIS for trying to assassinate one of their leaders. The clashes resulted in a number of casualties and injured among the two groups. Members of Ansar al-Islam were also present and spread in great numbers in the streets of the Yarmouk Camp after Bilal Salman Abu Khader, the Emir of Ansar al-Islam, was killed, along with three others members including Mohamed Naddaf Abu Muawiya.
- On 3 March 2016, two children, Mohammed Abed and Hussein Alyan were injured from clashes in the Yarmouk refugee camp, between al-Ansar (who are affiliated with ISIS) and al Nusra. The two children were transferred to Yalda for treatment at Almaydani hospital. One of the children sustained serious injuries.
- On 7 March 2016, snipers targeted some civilians in Aorouba, Masbah Albasel, and Althalathein street after fighting between Nusra and opposition groups in Yalda, south of the camp. The sources added that an elderly man from Yarmouk Camp and two children were injured.
- On 9 March 2016, sporadic clashes broke out at confrontation lines in Yarmouk, between the regular army alongside the pro-regime groups and ISIS alongside al Nusra, which coincided with explosions in the fighting zones.
- On 7 April 2016, clashes and sniper fire broke out in the Yarmouk refugee camp between ISIS and al Nusra.

- On 8 April 2016, a child was injured in the leg on their way to school. An emir of ISIS, Abu Ali Saidi was seriously injured at the same time.
- On 11 April 2016, three Palestinian refugees died during clashes between ISIS and al Nusra. Ahmed Hamdan, Mohammed Amayri, and Muhammad Ali died as well as members of those fighting. Houses were also burnt in Haifa Street by Molotov bombs.
- On 12 April 2016, ongoing clashes between ISIS and Nusra meant a number of homes in Ja'una neighbourhood were burnt inside the camp.
- On 20 April 2016, ISIS gained control over large parts of the camp after they drove out al Nusra.
- On 3 May 2016, bombing targeted the Yarmouk Camp, while violent clashes broke out between the Regular army alongside pro-regime Palestinian factions, and al Nusra. Residents confirmed to the AGPS that ISIS did manage to take control of many areas where al Nusra were stationed, which led to those areas becoming 'very weak', according to a resident.
- On 11 May 2016, al Nusra and the People of Yarmouk movement, proceeded on to western Yarmouk, the heart of the Ansar group and their allegiance to ISIS. Nusra re-gained control of several blocks behind Alaman medical Complex, while a number of ISIS were killed during the clashes. Al Nusra distributed snipers to prevent the advance of ISIS, while ISIS placed pressure at the end of Haifa Street, controlled by al Nusra, after ISIS proceeded onto Saffuriyya Street.
- On 12 May 2016, three members of the civil defense were injured in the besieged Yarmouk Camp after a sniper targeted them in front the civil defense headquarters near the Yarmouk cemetery in Al Taqadom. They were transferred to Shaheed Al Mehrab hospital at Yalda town in order to receive the required treatment.
- On 13 May 2016, clashes broke out between al Nusra and ISIS in the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, after the latter attempted to break into one of the Nusra controlled areas near Abdel Kader Husseini school in the camp.
- On 19 May 2016, ISIS imposed new restrictions on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, where clashes broke out with al Nusra. A number of people confirmed that Almadares checkpoint - ISIS checkpoint - prevented the people of Ain Ghazal district from bringing in bread, drinking water and cartons of food aid, provided by UNRWA in the town of Yalda. Residents were forced to keep the cartons with their

relatives outside of the besieged areas in the camp, in addition to the bread and drinking water to their homes in the fighting zones.

- On 26 May 2016, violent clashes broke out in the Yarmouk refugee camp between al Nusra and ISIS over control of Ja'una street. Clashes resulted in injuries among the two parties, while members of al Nusra fended off an attack by ISIS. Light and medium machine guns and Molotov cocktails were used during the clashes, while more explosive devices were planted in civilian homes. The AGPS correspondent stressed that ISIS seized and transferred the contents of Basel Hospital in Yarmouk refugee camp to nearby Alhajar Alaswad region. Members of ISIS distributed ads calling for the ban of smoking in the streets, they also distributed leaflets urging women to wear the hijab in the streets of the camp.
- On 27 May 2016, violent clashes broke out between al Nusra and ISIS following the latter's attempt to break into the areas where Nusra soldiers were stationed in Ja'una neighbourhood, east of the camp. Activists confirmed that, for the first time, al Nusra fighters used 14.5 mm medium machine guns during the clashes, which means, according to activists, more devastation and destruction of people's homes. Houses were also targeted with grenades and firebombs, destroying the walls. This was a way for both groups to hide from snipers.
- On 30 May 2016, clashes broke out in the besieged Yarmouk Camp between ISIS and al Nusra, which centered around the Masbah Basel area. ISIS targeted this area by a missile that was fired towards Nusra stations. New negotiations also started between ISIS and al Nusra to stop hostilities.
- On 2 June 2016, an unknown explosive device exploded in Al Quds Street in the Yarmouk Camp, south of the Syrian capital Damascus. The explosion killed two former leaders of al Nusra: Abu Bilal Hujeira and Firas Alqashi, as well as a number of civilians. Resources from the Yarmouk Camp reported that the wounded were taken to Almaydani hospital at Alhajar Alaswad neighbourhood next to the camp, a stronghold of ISIS, knowing that Al Quds Street area, where the explosive device was planted, and is under the control of ISIS.

KHAN ESHIEH CAMP

In the first half of 2016, hostilities between the conflict parties in Syria escalated in order to control Khan Al Shieh, located 27km southwest of Damascus city. Khan Eshieh Camp has been targeted with explosive barrels, mortars, and artillery shells, causing casualties and injuries. An undeclared siege, imposed by the regular army, has exacerbated the suffering of residents and increased economic, humanitarian, and health difficulties.

In turn, UNRWA released a press statement, published on its website on 9 June 2016, denouncing the escalation of the armed conflict in Syria. According to the statement, the armed conflict was a serious threat for refugees at Khan Eshieh Camp.

The statement added, “UNRWA is still deeply concerned about the killing and injury of Palestinian refugees and other civilians throughout Syria. UNRWA called all parties to refrain from exposing civilians to those risks, and in order to protect the lives of civilians, it is necessary for all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and abide by it”.

For its part, on 16 May 2016, the AGPS condemned persistent attacks on Khan Eshieh Camp and warned of the disastrous results that such deliberate targeting would have. The group called on Syrian officials and armed opposition to keep Khan Eshieh Camp neutral and to stop the immediate hostilities against its civilians. The AGPS also demanded that all roads be opened to allow basic necessities to be allowed through, such as medicine and baby milk. AGPS also demanded that the Palestinian presence in Syria be respected as a temporary presence, and for the respect of international conventions that ensure civilian protection during armed conflict.

The AGPS called on the international community and UNRWA to secure the necessary protection for Palestinian refugees inside Syria, enable relief and medical teams reaching the camp, and to take the necessary steps to save what remains of Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

The group also called on the Arab League and the Palestinian Authority to intervene with the conflict parties in Syria to stop grave violations against Palestinian refugees in the camps in order to avoid the loss of more civilian lives.

Significant Events

- On 7 January 2016, warplanes launched strikes to the east of Khan Eshieh Camp in Damascus suburb with at least two explosive barrels that resulted in violent explosions, rocking parts of the camp.
- On 10 January 2016, mortar shells targeted eastern parts of the camp. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- On 12 January 2016, warplanes launched multiple raids on farms surrounding Khan Eshieh Camp, using at least four explosive barrels, causing huge explosions that affected homes in the camp. This caused significant damage to civilian homes.
- On 15 January 2016, Shilka⁽⁴⁾ tanks (pictured) of regiment 137 of the Syrian army, stationed near the neighbouring towns of Khan Eshieh Camp, targeted the main water tank, close to Huda mosque, with heavy machineguns that hit the walls of the tank.
- On 23 January 2016, military positions of the regular army targeted Khan Al Shieh-Zakia road with heavy machine guns. Activists warned residents to not go through the road on this day.
- On 28 January 2016, Syrian warplanes and artillery shells stationed at Talet Alkabouseya targeted Khan Eshieh Camp and its vicinity.
- Three shells targeted Alzohour and Nestle Streets, which coincided with four raids that targeted adjacent farms towards Alsalam highway, Al Abaseya area, and the vicinity of Alsaed Street.
- On 30 January 2016, warplanes raided the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp with at least four explosive barrels, resulting in material damages.
- On 1 February 2016, Syrian warplanes launched four raids that targeted the Western outskirts of the camp in Mansheya and Abaseya areas. This coincided with the presence of 2,500 students inside the school during the raids. Warplanes hovered in the sky over the camp, causing anxiety among residents for fear of being targeted.



(4) The ZSU-23-4 the Shilka is a lightly armored Soviet self-propelled, radar guided anti-aircraft weapon system. Pictures By Vitaly V. Kuzmin - <http://vitalykuzmin.net/?q=node/306>, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27392939>

- On 2 February 2016, three residents were injured after the artillery of the regular army stationed in Talet Alkabouseia targeted the western parts of the camp with several shells. Clashes broke out in the surrounding area between the regular army and armed opposition groups.
- On 7 February 2016, the regular army artillery was stationed in the Talet Alkabouseia, which targeted the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp and the surrounding farms with several shells. Clashes broke out in the surrounding areas between the regular army and armed opposition groups.
- On 11 February 2016, groups within the Syrian opposition, stationed on the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp, executed an armed man. According to AGPS sources, someone indiscriminately opened fire and killed two residents and wounded several others. He was arrested and executed after a trial by these groups. Sources said that those injured included members of Aknaf Bait Almaqdes Brigades. During the same day, two mortar shells were fired in a few different parts of Khan Eshieh Camp damaging property within the camp.
- On 12 February 2016, artillery shells and a number of missiles targeted different parts of Khan Eshieh Camp and its vicinity. Two missiles targeted Althanaweya Street and one targeted Nestle Street. A refugee, Ferial Ali was hit after a shell landed on her house.
- On 13 February 2016, a missile targeted Alkhawalda lane opposite Huda mosque on the west of Khan Eshieh Camp - no casualties were caused among the civilians.
- On 14 February 2016, warplanes targeted the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp in Damascus, with at least three missiles in two consecutive raids. The high sound of explosions spread panic among residents.
- On 16 February 2016, the Syrian regime forces stationed at regiment 137, closed the road between Khan Al Shieh and Zakya. Regime forces fired flares in the vicinity of the camp.
- On 21 February 2016, the only exit of Khan Eshieh Camp, which led to the capital of Damascus, was targeted by heavy machine guns. This led to a state of tension among residents at Zakia-Khan al Shieh Road.
- On 23 February 2016, the regular army targeted civilian homes with heavy machine guns in the eastern neighbourhood of the camp, causing fear and anxiety among residents, especially the children. Artillery targeted the surrounding farms towards Alsalam highway.

- On 25 February 2016, Syrian warplanes targeted the surrounding farms with rockets and explosive barrels; one of the explosive barrels targeted Alrida Street on the outskirts of the camp. The Syrian warplanes also dropped two explosive barrels on the outskirts of Alsalam highway towards Husseiniya region, coinciding with the bombing of the farms located between Khan Al Shieh and Alderkhbayh area with four missiles.
- On 26 February 2016, Syrian regime forces targeted a group of residents in the western suburb of Damascus during a resident's funeral, which resulted in the death of the Palestinian refugee Ibrahim Mahmoud Mofleh Al-Kabiri and a number of wounded.
- On 26 February 2016, the Palestinian refugee, Mohammed Nasser Shehab, died after being tortured in the prisons of the Syrian regime.
- On 4 March 2016, Syrian warplanes dropped three explosive barrels in the vicinity of Al-Iskan and Al-Rida Streets adjacent to Khan Eshieh Camp in the Damascus suburb.
- On 23 March 2016, 14 explosive barrels targeted the eastern part of the camp towards Abbaseya and Al-Qusour areas. Shrapnel of the barrels reached the eastern lanes of the camp, while the houses were shaken as described by a resident, causing a state of panic and fear among women and children.
- On 30 March 2016, warplanes of the Syrian regime targeted the surrounding farms with 14 explosive barrels. Al-Saeed, Alvillat, Sharaf and Nestle Street were bombed.
- On 1 April, Syrian regime warplanes targeted the surrounding farms with at least 12 explosive barrels. The bombing coincided with Friday prayers.
- On 2 April 2016, artillery shelling ensued by the regular army and targeted the top floor of Al-Huda mosque leaving extensive damage to the building. Meanwhile, the Syrian regime warplanes targeted the outskirts of the camp in the same way with four explosive barrels, accompanied by artillery shelling from Talet Alkabouseya.
- On 3 April 2016, the regular army targeted the only road in Khan Eshieh Camp through Zakia town with heavy weapons.
- On 5 April 2016, shelling targeted the eastern and western lanes of the camp. Shelling on Al Madares Street caused injury to two women.
- On 7 April 2016, sporadic shelling targeted the vicinity of Khan Eshieh Camp by Talet Al Kabouseya, controlled by the regular army. A house caught fire near the cemetery, which caused one injury.

- On 16 April 2016, Syrian regime Sukhoi warplanes launched four raids on the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp towards Alsalam highway and Alzohour street, while warplanes hovered above the area.
- On 17 April 2016, warplanes dropped a number of explosive barrels on the surrounding farms. Shelling targeted the end of Alrida Street, the vicinity of Alrida street, and Alsalam highway.
- On 20 April 2016, cannons of regiment 137 of the regular army continued to target neighbouring farms. Nestle Street was shelled.
- On 21 April 2016, Syrian warplanes dropped a number of explosive barrels on the farms and towns adjacent to the camp. Shelling targeted the vicinity of Skaik and Al Rida Streets and Abbasseia Farms.
- On 24 April 2016, Syrian warplanes dropped six explosive barrels on the surrounding farms of Khan Eshieh Camp. The shrapnel reached the camp's houses.
- On 25 April 2016, a six month-old child, Omar Amer Abu-Hamda, died and 12 residents were injured due to shelling, which targeted the western lane and the only clinic in the camp. A number of people were at the clinic at the time. This coincided with the outbreak of violent clashes between armed groups affiliated to the Syrian opposition and the regular army. A number of mortar shells landed on Althanaweia street, causing injuries. They also landed opposite Alkhawald lane on agricultural land but no injuries or damage was caused.
- On 1 May 2016, warplanes shelled different parts of Khan Eshieh Camp. This caused almost widespread civilian casualties but one landed without exploding.
- On 5 May 2016, warplanes of the Syrian regime launched a number of air raids on the outskirts of Khan Eshieh Camp, where raids targeted Al Salam highway, Alvillat Street, and Alqosour area.
- On 11 May 2016, warplanes targeted the vicinity of the eastern cemetery, Aliskan military housing, and the vicinity of Abbasseia farms. One of the explosive barrels damaged a house without causing any injuries.⁽⁵⁾
- On 17 May 2016, Syrian security and armed forces killed five Palestinian refugees from Khan Eshieh Camp in Damascus suburb. Members of the regime targeted a civilian car that was carrying a number of

(5) AGPS issued a statement to warn from the consequences of targeting the Palestinian refugees in Khan Al Sheih. The AGPS clarified in the statement that it condemns the frequent attacks on Khan Al Sheih and called all parts Regime or Opposition to neutralize the camp and open all roads and allow the entry of basic materials, medicine and Children Milk.

refugees as it passed through the only road connecting the camp and the centre of the capital, Damascus. The victims included a child and his mother. AGPS documented the names of the victims: Mohammad Majid Sanad and his mother Rawda Jaber, Hamza Muhammad al-Dali, Hazem Hussein Hazza, and Owaida Mazhor as well a number of other casualties. Palestinian refugee, Ahmed Hassan Awwad, also died due to the shelling that targeted the outskirts of the camp.

- On 18 May 2016, the regime's artillery, while they were stationed at Talet Alkabouseya, targeted houses and lanes of Khan Eshieh Camp, resulting in material damages. This coincided with the outbreak of violent clashes between the Syrian armed opposition groups and the regular army.
- On 19 May 2016, the Syrian regime forces targeted a bus carrying a number of high school students on their return to the camp after their exams. Several buses were hit causing a state of panic among the students. The bus was targeted despite the fact it carried on it the UN flag. There was also coordination between refugees and UNRWA on the one hand and the seventh division of the regular army on the other.
- On 18 May 2016, a ninth grade student was injured by shrapnel in the head on her return home to Althanaweya Street. She was transferred immediately for treatment outside the camp, despite the difficult security situation and the targeting of civilians.
- On 20 May 2016, the regiment 137 of the regular army targeted a house in Khan Eshieh Camp with a missile, injuring a child. The shelling also targeted the eastern vicinity of the camp, and a rocket was dropped at the edge of where people's homes were (it caused no damage).
- On 26 May 2016, the Syrian regular army directly targeted Huda mosque resulting in material damage. A resident confirmed the mosque was preserved as a place for worship only and did not harbour militants or weapons. Meanwhile, shelling targeted the main Street and eastern arts, causing panic among residents, especially children, for fear of being targeted.
- On 27 May 2016, the regular army tanks targeted Khan Eshieh Camp, killing a Palestinian child, Ahmed Zuhair Tahimr. Residents' properties were also destroyed.
- On 3 June 2016, a family survived certain death, after Syrian warplanes launched a raid on their house. The family happened to be outside of their house at the time. The bombardment resulted in significant material damage.

- On 9 June 2016, the regular army stationed at Talet Alkabouseya targeted Khan Eshieh Camp with two shells; one of them targeted the eastern section of the camp, and the other one targeted the vicinity of Alrida mosque. The shelling resulted in the injury of an old man who was slightly injured in the head by the scattering glass and shrapnel. Shells also damaged the property. In the same day, a Shilka tank stationed at Alsalam highway opened fire on western farms of Khan Eshieh Camp.
- On 18 June 2016, a Palestinian refugee from Khan Al Sheih camp was injured due to bombing on the surrounding farms.
- On 19 June 2016, warplanes targeted the eastern lane of Khan Eshieh Camp with thermobaric rockets. It caused material damages and a hole in the land. 15 airstrikes also targeted the western side of the camp.
- On 25 June 2016, a young woman from Khan Al Sheih Camp was injured along with two known Palestinian refugees: Nayef Ibrahim Nimir, also known as Abu Nahel, and Ghassan Abu Sitta. The raid caused many to be injured. Activists said the warplanes used cluster bombs during the raids.
- On 29 June 2016, six Palestinian refugees including a child and a woman, Ali Hassan Moussa, and two brothers Amer Fayez Nimir and Nour Fayez Nimir, five year-old Suhaib Izz al-Din Yusuf, and Fethiye Tawfiq Nhar. A refugee, Izz Din Yusuf died – he was one of the military leaders of the so-called Islamic Union for Ajnad Al Sham. AGPS can verify that the warplanes that hit the camp were Russian warplanes, targeting houses of civilians with destructive rockets. The destructive rockets exceed the capacity of the explosive barrels, which usually cause mass destruction to civilian houses in addition to many casualties and victims.⁽⁶⁾

Health Conditions

The residents of Khan Al Sheih Camp in Damascus Suburb suffered from a severe drop in health conditions due to the closure of hospitals near the camp, and the end of UNRWA clinic's provision of basic services. These were now limited only to advisory services. This made its presence futile because it could not meet even minimum health requirements for the thousands of people it was designed to accommodate.

(6) Due to these developments, on June 29, 2016, AGPS issued a press statement that condemns the attacks on Khan Al Sheih camp in Damascus Suburb such as the violent bombing with Russian and Syrian warplanes, which led to victims and mass destruction of properties. AGPS warned from the repetition of Yarmouk, Sbeineh and Handarat catastrophe, where they were evacuated from their residents. It also condemned targeting the Palestinians of Syria civilians and called to apply and respect the international conventions and treaties to protect the refugees during armed conflicts.

AGPS found only two doctors were available in the camp as well as a dentist and a pediatrician. Road closures by the regime along with the other humanitarian conditions led most of the doctors to leave the camp.

Some field medical points were established in the camp to provide treatment to the Khan Al Sheih camps' residents. One of the medical cadres in the camp said that serious cases were sent to towns and hospitals in the surrounding areas.

The health crisis is an additional woe, which accompanies the abhorrent conditions that have arisen from the withdrawal of relief services and cutting off of roads that linked the camp to Damascus.

Civil Work Committees

During the first half of 2016, residents of Khan Al Sheih camp complained of poor living conditions, and neglect from UNRWA, Palestine factions and Palestine officials. AGPS reported that many of Khan Al Sheih residents were unemployed and dependent on irregular and limited aid, considering that the camp is under a semi-siege. The Palestine Charity Foundation, Jafra and some civil committees did provide some relief services to people in the camp due to particularly harsh conditions.

- On 16 January 2016, the Youth Committee in the Palestine Charity Foundation organised a marathon entitled 'Martyrs Week' for all ages of Khan Al Sheih residents. This involved more than 450 competitors from various civil and social committees in the camp.
- On 29 January 2016, Palestine Charity Foundation initiated a clear-up of an UNRWA school that was destroyed by rebels in 2015 from explosive barrels, and to change it to a football ground.
- On 5 March 2016, the Palestine Charity Foundation team in the camp cleared the remains of the bombing that previously targeted Beir Al Saba' UNRWA school.
- On 13 May 2016, Palestine Charity Foundation and the International Campaign to Maintain the Palestine ID, INTEMA, carried out a number of traditional activities in Khan Al Sheih camp via a traditional Palestinian wedding inside the camp.
- On 12 May 2016, the Palestine Charity Foundation under the patronage of the International Campaign to Maintain the Palestine ID 'INTEMA' carried out a graduation ceremony for the first anniversary of Bare'm Al Quds kindergarten in Khan Al Sheih camp. The ceremony contains clarification activities for the difficult situation and the suffering of the residents inside the besieged Khan Eshieh Camp.

- On 30 March 2016, Jafra Foundation in Khan Al Sheih camp carried out a commemoration of the Land Day titled 'We are the Land' 'Nahnu Al Ard'. The campaign included the plantation of 111 olive trees on Al Nahr road in the Camp.
- On 16 January 2016, a group of Palestinian Syrian refugees in Denmark, having fled the war, launched a charity campaign help raise money and alleviate the suffering felt in Khan Al Sheih camp. Bombings and detention have made the economic conditions in the camp very difficult.

According to a Facebook page, which reports on the situation in Khan Al Sheih camp, money raised covered the needs of 100 families in the camp, providing them with 3,000 SYP each – the equivalent of around US\$8. Despite the small monetary value of the donations, the group thought that it could represent the beginning of an initiative that would encourage refugees in the Diaspora to donate even more. They also called on the Palestinian youth to continue to build on this amount so that more and more families could be helped.

Living Conditions

More than 15,000 Palestinian refugees and displaced Palestinian Syrina families live in harsh and difficult conditions due to the strict siege. AGPS field reports from Khan Eshieh Camp, say that a large number of the camp's residents are unemployed and dependent on limited and irregular aid because of the deteriorating security situation in adjacent areas. Adjacent areas had been exposed to bombings, siege and violent clashes between opposition groups and the Syrian Regular Army. Residents were also impacted as most roads leading to Khan Al Sheih Camp were closed, preventing food, medicine and bread from entering the camp. The residents also complained that water, electricity and communications were cut for long periods of time.

The people of Khan Eshieh Camp launched a distress call to the authorities. They asked for food such as bread, medical aid and fuel be used to run generators and extract drinking water from the wells, to be let through on an urgent basis. They called for efforts to be made to stop the camp from being targeted and to protect it from ongoing clashes. In letters written to AGPS, people from Khan Al Shieh wrote that they wanted to open a safe passage for movement into and out of the camp.

The regular army maintained the closure of all roads into the camp, which prompted residents, students and employees to use secondary roads, which

were more dangerous. More than 12 people from the camp died on these roads because of snipers positioned along them. Residents expressed how they had been impacted by road closures including rising food prices because of the difficulty of getting it into the camp. Bread is one key example, as ingredients were hard to come by as was fuel and bakeries had shut down. Bread was therefore, sourced from neighbouring towns instead, but meant the amount needed was in short supply.

AL SAYEDA ZAINAB CAMP - QABR AL SIT

Al Sayeda Zainab Camp in Damascus is located near the conflict's hotspots but had remained in a state of relative calm. The relative calmness continued during the first half of 2016 except for the horrific massacre in February 2016. On 21 February 2016, Al Sayeda Sainab area witnessed a huge explosion that led to the deaths of more than 100 victims, including 40 Palestinians from the residents of Al Sayeda Zainab refugee camp, according to AGPS⁽⁷⁾ researchers, who collected the names.

Victims from the Bombing on 21 February 2016 in Al Sayeda Zainab

No.	Name	Details
1	Khalid Al Rahhal	A PFGC members from Al Hajar Al Aswad, next to the Yarmouk Camp.
2	Reem Maher	Child
3	Habeeb Ibrahim Mahmoud Hasan	Child
4	Hakam Mahmoud Saleem	
5	Mohammed Ayman Saleh	Child
6	Qais Mohammed Easa	Child
7	Om Mo'taz Mehawish	
8	Amna Hamad Theeb Lafi	
9	Nawal Mohammed Theeb	Named in other resources as Nawal Mohammed Theeb Lafi
10	Aysha Mahmoud	
11	Raghda Ahmed	Known in other resources as Raghda Rateb Easa
12	Dema Mohammed	Known in other resources as Dema Mohammed Easa

(7) For more details see report about "Al Sayeda Zainab Camp "Qabr Al Sit" on the AGPS website:- <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/pdf/alssayidazaynab.pdf>

13	Samar Kamel Ibrahim	
14	Kawthar Kamel Ibrahim	
15	Islam Mohammed Mohammed	Known as Islam Mohammed Tema in other resources
16	Mohammed Ibrahim Baker	
17	Yaser Jihad Rahban	
18	Ali Mar'I Abdullah	
19	Mohammed Mahmoud Al mar'i	
20	Naser Ahmed Hammoud	
21	Haitham Mohammed Suliman	The responsible leader of Al Nidal Popular Front in Al Sayeda Zainab camp, known in other resources as Haitham Suliman Khaza'i
22	Mohammed Majd Al Sharif	
23	Ahmed Mahmoud Jafaran	
24	Kanan Mohammed Theeb Ali Saleh	From PLA soldiers died with his wife Wala Saleh
25	Wala' Fawwaz Saleh	Died with her husband Kanan Mohammed Theeb Ali Saleh
26	Ibrahim Kamel Ibrahim	
27	Ahmed Al Dakheel	
28	Haitham Al Dakheel	
29	Abdulrahman Hadeed	
30	Ali Musa Ahmed Alabdullah	
31	Hamda Mhawish	Also known as Om Audai
32	Aysha Ali Aqla	
33	Fatma Hadeed	
34	Huda Mohammed Hasan	
35	Majeda Nimir Al Khatib	
36	Sajeda Khalid	
37	Wesam Khalid Khashan	Child
38	Nour Al Din Mohammed naser Easa	Child
39	Ayman Mohammed Saleh Al Znghri	Died from sustained wounds
40	Yousif Hurani	Died from sustained wounds

On 11 June 2016, refugees Mohammed Hasan Teem and Taha Ahmed Sharqi from Al Sayeda Zainab camp died after a bombing targeted the camp in the Damascus Suburb.

Living Conditions

In the first half of 2016, residents of Sayeda Zeinab camp, which is controlled by the Syrian army and loyal Popular Committees, experienced difficult living conditions, particularly after security had been tightened by regular army checkpoints in the camp. One of the residents explained how screening and favouritism worked at the checkpoints saying that, “Bread is possible to be available to some families according to favouritism and knowledge”.

Residents also complained about the scarcity of fuel, having to resort to using firewood. This made materials generally too high in price, and in particular, the cost of fuel. The crises increased onerous costs on Palestinian families in the camp while weakening their financial position through unemployment. This prompted people to leave the camp, to migrate overseas or to work within the Popular Committees of the Syrian army.

AL HUSSENEIA CAMP

Despite the partial return of residents to Al Hussenia camp in Damascus suburb, nearly 40% of its residents did not return to the camp (these numbers were accurate up to the point of reporting). Reasons for this were varied but as well as being stopped by the regular army and loyal militias, fear of being arrested by going through regular army checkpoints meant that many did not return. Young people from the camp claimed they faced multiple charges and would be arrested if they had to go through the checkpoints. Most notably they were wanted for advocating pro-Syrian armed opposition groups and providing them with medical and relief services.

AGPS documented the arrest of several women by the regular army at their checkpoints. The regular army was also responsible for blowing up the homes of some of the relief activists and journalists who were residents in the camp.

- On 25 January 2016, the Syrian regime evicted Al Masri family from their home and expelled them from Al Hussenia camp, claiming they

were affiliated to the Hamas Movement, noting that two members of the family had been held in Syrian prisons for more than two years.

- On living conditions, residents of Al Hussenia camp suffered during the first half of 2016 from the accumulation of garbage and rubble from homes that had been destroyed by shelling that took place in several streets of the camp causing the closure of entire roads. One of the residents said that those living on these streets were affected by the unpleasant odors and dust caused by the shelling.
- Moreover, the camp became infested with rodents in the lanes of the camps and compounds, which did spread disease. Residents and activists said the rodent infestation was caused by accumulating garbage in the road and rubble from homes destroyed through shelling, which had not been removed despite this problem. Requests were also made to Governorates and Municipalities for the rubbish to be moved immediately.
- On 15 January 2016, World Relief Organisation in collaboration with the Charity Organisation for the Relief of Palestinian People, opened Zahir Bin Haram Mosque in Al Hussenia camp, which was renovated. This was the second mosque that had been opened in the camp, the first being Khalil Al-Rahman Mosque.

AL SBEINEH CAMP

Leaked information by close sources of the Syrian regime suggested that workshops and technical committees were working on the rehabilitation of infrastructure for the return of residents to Sbeineh on 14 March 2016. However, these sources did not specify a date for completion of work and return of Palestinian refugees to their camp. The first half of 2016 ended while the regular army and various Palestinian groups continued to prevent residents of Sbeinah camp returning to their homes, which they had been doing so since 17 November 2013. They were forced to leave the camp after fierce clashes broke out between groups of the armed opposition and the regular army, which ended with the latter seizing control over the camp completely.

A number of activists, notables and residents of the camp appealed to the Syrian regime to allow them to return to their property and homes, highlighting that they were living in miserable conditions due to the deteriorating economic situation and high unemployment rates.

JARAMANA CAMP

In the first half of 2016, a state of relative stability was experienced by residents of Jaramana camp, which is located eight kilometers from the Syrian capital, Damascus on the road to Damascus International Airport. However, residents of the camp lacked basic services and had poor infrastructure. Rents have increased while demand for housing in the camp is in decline. It has been subject to overcrowding due to the displacement of those from neighbouring areas, while also experiencing aid shortages from charities and UNRWA, who claim they do not have the resources to meet all of the needs of the camp.

Jaramana camp contains almost 5,000 displaced families from Yarmouk, Hosseinieh, Sayeda Zeinab, Sbeineh and Thababya camps. Jarmana camp remained relatively untouched by the hostilities in Syria because of its location near to areas governed by the regime. However, shelling did cause around 40 deaths in the camp.

KHAN DANNUN CAMP

Despite the relative calm of Khan Dannun, its residents have not been immune to harassment and other violations practiced by checkpoint personnel working for security committees loyal to the Syrian regime. Witnesses in the camp said that girls in the camp were often subjected to verbal harassment when they passed the checkpoint. Other anecdotal testimonies said that these personnel stole from the residents while carrying out inspections.

On 2 February 2016, activists accused the pro-Syrian regime in Khan Dannun camp of robbery. One of the camp residents said that a number of passers-by had been robbed using aggressive methods. A member of one of the security committees was identified and implicated in the crime, according to activists who vowed to publish the names of those involved. Residents of Khan Dannun camp complained about the rising trend of these thefts, which saw water pumps, electrical and electronic car parts and other property stolen. Repeated accusations were made against security committees loyal to the Syrian regime, who conducted night patrols in the camp.

Residents of Khan Dannun camp were also targeted for recruitment. Activists and residents accused associations and groups affiliated with the

Syrian regime and Iran of seducing the unemployed youth in order to recruit them and fight alongside the forces with alluring monthly salaries. Activists added that these groups raised slogans concerning the Palestinian issue as an effective method in the recruitment process, they claimed.

Missing

On 19 May 2016, Palestinian refugee, Adnan Mohammed Abu Raed, a resident of Khan Dannun camp, went missing while making his way to the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Education

Schools within Khan Dannun were overridden with large numbers of students and they struggled to provide enough classes for all of them. Students subsequently only attended school for a three hour period each day, within which all their lessons had to be completed, causing apparent stress. Parents of the students said that the General Authority for Palestinian refugees and UNRWA need to expand the schooling capabilities within the camp.

The school drop out rate in the camp was indicated to have increased, particularly among female students. The conflict had impacted economic conditions in the camp, forcing a large proportion of women and young people to go to work in order to assist their families.

Living Conditions

Bread became scarce in the camp due to the reduction in the availability of flour. Residents of Khan Dannun camp have acknowledged that the quality of bread had become poorer. Parents appealed to the Syrian government and concerned authorities to provide the necessary flour to make bread and to stop the owners of the bread ovens (where camp residents queue to collect their bread) from exploiting the situation. Residents suffered a shortage in cooking gas, alongside power cuts that lasted for more than 16 hours a day.

On 5 January 2016, a 'Winter Warm Campaign' was launched by a convoy of Ahl Al-Khair. They distributed clothes for Palestinian refugees in Al-Kaswa and Khan Dannun camp in Damascus suburb. Items were distributed in Al-Kiswa area for centres supervised by the Red Crescent while clothes were distributed for centres supervised by UNRWA in Khan Dannun camp. Palestinian refugees in Damascus suburb, mainly in Khan Dannun camp,

were impacted by the reduction of relief aid as a result of deteriorating economic conditions. The absence of charities and civil committees were caused by security restrictions imposed by regime forces. The arrests of several activists, prompted the committees to close down so as to avoid further risk to the lives of activists.

DER'AA CAMP

Der'aa camp is under the control of militant factions and located in Der'aa city. It is populated mostly by Palestinian refugees and Syrians displaced from the occupied Golan Heights, which was exposed to ongoing artillery and air strikes by regular troops in the first half of 2016. Bombardment on neighbourhoods and homes of the camp led to significant damage and prompted residents to flee to less dangerous neighbouring areas whereas others decided to remain in shelters in light of the difficult living conditions. Some families are living in small cellars.⁽⁸⁾

Field Situation

- On 2 February 2016, Der'aa Camp, in southern Syria, was exposed to heavy shelling by artillery shells and tanks by Syrian regime forces. This caused panic and fear among residents as well as damage to civilian properties inside the camp.
- On 10 February 2016, Palestinian refugees in Der'aa Camp expressed fears and concerns after news was leaked that the camp may be stormed by the Syrian regular army and groups loyal to it in the city of Der'aa. Activists warned those in the region under threat to exercise caution during air bombings and artillery and mortar shelling, which started in preparation of the planned storming. Syrian security exercises tightened security measures on Palestinian refugees in the Syrian opposition controlled areas in the south of Syria. It accused those in these areas of loyalty to the opposition and of aiding its members.
- On 1 March 2016, Der'aa Camp, south of Syria, was exposed to heavy bombardment of artillery and tank shells by regime forces centered in the city.

(8) For more details you can see the report of the Palestinians of Syria Bitter Status and Difficult Choices on AGPS Website: <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/pdf/daraa.pdf>

- On 3 April 2016, a child, Ahmad Abd El- Aal was shot by a sniper of the regular army. Dozens of children scattered bouquets of roses on Ahmad's grave. Children in the camp have suffered from difficult humanitarian conditions and fear death at every moment because of the indiscriminate rockets and missiles.
- On 11 April 2016, Der'aa Camp was exposed to bombing by a number of mortar shells, which targeted different areas of the camp.
- On 25 April 2016, the regular army targeted southern Der'aa with land rocket type, Phil, at a neighbourhood next to Der'aa Camp using mortar shells, which caused a number of civilian casualties and injured as well as severe damage to their homes. In addition, a number of Palestinian families who were displaced from the camp, moved to the adjacent neighbourhood.
- On 10 May 2016, Der'aa camp was exposed to bombing by a number of heavy mortar shells, which targeted different areas of the camp and caused significant damage to properties.
- On 27 May 2016, the regular army targeted the houses of Palestinian refugees' in Der'aa camp with ground anti-aircraft batteries, which created panic and fear among the residents, especially the children as members of the Syrian security army indiscriminately opened fire.
- On 30 June 2016, Der'aa camp was exposed to bombing by a number of heavy mortar shells that targeted different areas of the camp and caused substantial damage.

Restriction on Movement

On 23 April 2016, a number of Palestinian refugees in southern Syria accused UNRWA in the city of Der'aa of helping Syrian security forces arrest Palestinian refugees, mostly from Der'aa and Muzeireeb camps. This came after the centre refused to hand over financial aid to some of the refugees. They had been requested to review security branches in Damascus, and found themselves in the hands of Syrian security forces. AGPS could not confirm the information at the time but the group documented the reluctance of many of the Palestinian refugees to collect financial and food aid from UNRWA and the PLO in the city centre, for fear of being arrested by Syrian security forces. Palestinian refugees in Der'aa, Muzeireeb, and Glin camps were vulnerable to arrest, prosecution, and scrutiny by security forces. The main reason for this was due to conscription and refusal to fight.

On 29 January 2016, Syrian security forces arrested three Palestinians, including two women from Der'aa camp while they were on their way to Damascus to collect financial aid from UNRWA. Der'aa residents, through the AGPS, called on UNRWA a variety of times to distribute aid in the camp and avoid arrest by members of the regular army, whose checkpoints were located on Damascus – Der'aa way.

Health

There is no hospital or medical center in the De'raa camp, and there is a severe shortage of drugs, medical equipment and materials needed for first aid.

In the same context, there is no availability of ambulances to transport the wounded and receive treatment outside of the camp through Jordan. Jordan has refused the entry of Palestinians, just as they have Syrian citizens. Activists warned of the spread of epidemics and disease among residents due to contaminated water after drinking water had been cut off from the camp for over a year.

Living Conditions

Water in Der'aa has been cut off for over a year, which has prompted residents to use artesian wells, placing them at risk of contamination. However, contaminated wells are the only remaining option in the region or else they would need to risk their lives travelling long distances past the snipers. Extracting water from the wells still remains difficult because of the power shortages and scarcity of fuel needed to operate the electric generators.

People have resorted to hand pumps as power outages presented a chronic problem. Power cuts have lasted more than 20 hours per day and for entire days at a time. Wired and wireless phone services have also ceased and have done so for more than a year. Complications remained because public facilities and relief services had stopped for almost a year, resulting in rodents in the abandoned and destroyed houses. UNRWA's work also stopped.

NEIRAB CAMP

Neirab camp is adjacent to Neirab military site, which makes it a strategic location for parties to the conflict. In the first half of 2016, the camp was bombed and it endured gunfire, which led to civilian casualties as well as combatant deaths. Some of the residents were fighting with Al-Quds Brigade, loyal to the Syrian regime, while others were fighting alongside the armed opposition.

Living Conditions

Residents of Al Nairab camp in Aleppo suffered similarly to other Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. The first half of 2016 was characterised by the high cost of food items and heating fuel. Monopoly traders doubled food prices, which placed an increasing burden on those suffering from poverty. This prompted some residents to ask traders to stop exploiting unstable situations and provide markets with needed food items at reasonable prices. These developments coincided with fears of its impact on all aspects of life, especially during the fierce hostilities in the north of the country, and the devaluation of the Syrian pound against the dollar as well as a lack of financial resource for the majority of families and high unemployment rates among residents of the camp. Residents of Al Nairab camp also suffered from continued power outages and communications for several hours during the day.

- On 22 February 2016, living conditions in Al-Nairab camp worsened when ISIS cut off the only supply road to Aleppo from the coast and city of Hama, after it took over Khanasser town in the southern Suburb of Aleppo, in northern Syria.
- On 26 February 2016, AGPS confirmed that the markets endured price hikes. Consequently, many traders closed their shops and monopolised food provision, and other items they sold at high prices. AGPS established that the crisis had affected gas stations in the camp. Crowds overwhelmed the stations starting from the early hours of the morning. Roads were then closed out of fear that fuel would run out. This accompanied high transportation prices from the camp to the city.
- AGPS issued reports over this period, which stated that most food items and vegetables would witness significant price hikes, 24-hours after the road was shut.

Prices reached: (\$ 1 USD = 550 SYP October 2016)

A cooking gas cylinder = 7,000 SYP.

1kg tomatoes = 600 SYP.

1kg peppers = 800 SYP.

1kg of sugar = 300 SYP.

1kg potatoes = 275 SYP.

1kg meat = 4,500 SYP.

1kg chicken = 2,000 SYP.

Bush of parsley = 120 SYP.

Fruits were not available at all in the camp markets.

Education

Palestinian students in UNRWA schools in Aleppo suffered during the first half of 2016 from the bitter cold winter months because heating was seriously lacking in their schools. Students' families and a number of activists confirmed that heaters were empty and needed diesel and that their sons could not study in the severely low temperatures.

Significant Events

- On 2 February 2016, western parts of Al Nairab in Aleppo was exposed to aerial bombardment and three mortar shells fell in the area, causing damage to property.
- On 3 February 2016, Al Nairab camp experienced mortar shelling in the south of the camp, causing material damage and raising tensions between residents of the camp who feared their houses would be targeted.
- On 5 February 2016, Neirab camp was exposed to mortar shelling in different parts of the camp. Two mortar shells landed near rail tracks south of the camp and two shells landed on agricultural land in another area of the camp. A shell landed on a civilian's house also causing damage to property.
- On 14 February 2016, eight Palestinian refugees from al Quds Brigade were injured including: Ahmed Fayyad, Abdul Hadi, Ahmed Houari, Saleh Abdullah Al-Khatib, Khaled Hussein al-Sheikh Taha, Abdul Hassan Harb, Mohamed Ibrahim Doghaim, Zakaria Hammoud

Ghannam, and Ahmed Khaled Qadsia, who were residents of Al Nairab camp and Handarat Camp. They were injured due to fierce fighting in the town of Khanasser and Ithrya in Damascus Suburb in Aleppo between Syrian armed opposition groups and the Syrian regular army.

- On 18 February 2016, seven refugees from Al Nairab, including women and children, were wounded after a bus capsized on its way to Ramouseh in an attempted Aleppo coup. AGPS reporters confirmed that the wounded had been transferred to university hospital in Aleppo.
- On 6 April 2016, clashes broke out in the vicinity of Al Nairab camp in Aleppo. Explosions and gunfire were clearly heard inside the camp.
- On 10 April 2016, AGPS researchers in Aleppo reported that Ramouseh road, which links Aleppo city to Al Nairab, was blocked because snipers from the armed opposition targeted pedestrians. Several civilians from Al Nairab village were hit by the snipers. The snipers instilled enough fear into the residents, including worker and students in Aleppo city, to remain where they were.
- On 8 May 2016, violent clashes near Al Nairab camp occurred between the regular army and a group of al Quds Brigade and armed opposition groups. At the same time, Syrian warplanes bombed opposition groups in Sheikh Lutfi near the camp.
- On 15 May 2016, a number of Palestinian refugees were injured after targeting Al Nairab camp in Aleppo with three mortar shells on the main street. Ahmed Hadid was injured in the shoulder by shrapnel and two girls Malak and Rahaf Shaheen.
- On 22 May 2016, one of the women of Al Nairab camp in Aleppo was slightly wounded as a dispute between two members of the pro-Syrian regime committees saw indiscriminate fire ensue.
- On 31 May 2016, Ramouseh road, the only route for Palestinian refugees from Al Nairab camp to reach the city of Aleppo, was stormed, which inflicted a number of injuries on the camp's residents, including Said Sheikh Mohammed, who sustained fractures.
- On 1 June 2016, Hanaa Harb a female Palestinian refugee who lived in Al Nairab camp in Aleppo, lost her baby after sustaining injuries during the bombing, which hit her car as she was driving in Aleppo city with her mother and sister. She was immediately transferred to the University Hospital. She lost her unborn child while she, her mother and her sister survived.

- On 2 June 2016, Ramouseh road was exposed to shelling by armed opposition groups. A number of residents of neighbouring villages were wounded. Consequently, this prompted students from Neirab residents to leave the camp and attend a high school certificate examinations in Aleppo city due to concerns about being exposed to shells or road closures.
- On 26 June 2016, Abdel Moneim Hamdan died at one years of age in Ramouseh, Aleppo and his brother, Fateh, was wounded after they were shot by snipers while crossing the road, both of them are residents from the Neirab camp in Aleppo.

HANDARAT CAMP

Handarat camp residents have been hit hard by the Syrian conflict. Its residents have been expelled, displaced and forced to migrate over the previous few years. Some have claimed to be moving to their ninth place of residence in Aleppo city. Others have moved on to Al Nairab and also Turkey.

Living conditions for students in the camp worsened as the ninth unit in the University of Aleppo was evacuated in February 2016. This prompted activists, notables, and residents of the camp to send a message, assigning blame to those responsible for having been forced to leave their homes and property. Residents who had been displaced, from Handarat camp, neighbouring areas of Aleppo city and the Ibrahim Hananou neighborhood, complained about the difficult humanitarian situation that ensued due to food shortages, price hikes and neglect by UNRWA and civilian committees.

Significant Events

The second quarter of 2016 saw a significant escalation in violence around Aleppo, including Handarat camp, after the Syrian army, along with hundreds of Palestinians in al-Quds Brigade, launched a military campaign named 'Freeing Handarat camp in northern Aleppo Suburb' battle.

- On 8 April 2016, in the vicinity of Handarat camp, violent clashes were witnessed between the Syrian armed opposition groups and regular army forces who have tried to control the camp.
- On 14 April 2016, fire set Handarat camp alight by artillery rockets fired by Syrian regime forces. Clashes between Syrian armed opposition groups and the regular army also occurred.

- Palestinian activists accused al-Quds Brigade of recruiting young Palestinian refugees from amongst the residents of Handarat and Nairab camp, sending them to battlefronts. AGPS recorded the childrens' deaths; including Palestinian, Abu Ahmed Khashaba, a six year-old who died during the Handarat camp battles.
- On 28 April 2016, Fethiyah Salamah, Saher Al-Derby, Ahmed Nabil Hamidi, Samira Khatib, Imran Abbas, Montasser Tayeh and Abdul Qader Mugalad, residents of the camp, were wounded after mortar shells fell on the ninth unit in the university opposite the Faculty of Arts.
- On 13 May 2016, Russian warplanes raided 14 air strikes on Handarat camp for Palestinian refugee in northern Aleppo Suburb. This coincided with the outbreak of violent clashes between the Syrian army and al-Quds Brigade loyal to it on one side, and armed opposition groups on the other. Various kinds of light and heavy weapons were used.
- On 8 June 2016, warplanes launched several raids targeting the Handarat camp, which caused material damage to civilian homes, amid clashes and sniper fire between the armed opposition groups the regular army, supported by al-Quds Brigade.
- On 23 June 2016, the regular army bombed Handarat camp with firebombs. This coincided with clashes between the opposition and regime and al-Quds Brigade. The latter attempted to break into the camp but did not succeed.

AL AEDIN CAMP IN HOMS

Palestinian refugees from Syria fled towards Turkey and Europe during the first half of 2016 and from Homs camp, despite the issuing of international resolutions to curb irregular migration. Migration from Al-Aedin camp in Homs was particularly prolific because Syrian security personnel tended to prosecute Palestinian youth for not engaging in military service. Other security issues also made young people more vulnerable to detention and death. Poor living conditions were also felt in the camp. Markets suffered from high price hikes, widespread unemployment and scarce financial resources. The location of Homs camp also made it easier for those looking to flee to head towards Turkey from Damascus camps and the South.

- On 3 February 2016, a group of residents of Al Aedin camp in Homs reached Greece after risking their life on the seas in volatile weather conditions, according to one refugee who arrived in Greece. He confirmed that dozens of Al Aedin camp residents in Turkish territories were waiting their turn in the 'death boats' that were travelling to Europe.
- On 22 February 2016, a boat carrying two families in Al Aedin, including children, reached the Greek islands, after leaving the coastline of Turkey.

Arrests and Releases

Despite the concerted efforts of Al Aedin residents to keep the camp neutral, so as to avoid getting embroiled in the Syrian war, the actions of the regular army still impacted the camp as they closed off all of its exits and kept one avenue open for both entry and exit of the camp. They also placed sand barriers and barbed wire in between the camp and the Levant in order to close off all roads leading to the camp. In addition, government authorities created an iron fence, which separated Al Aedin camp from the surrounding neighborhoods. AGPS, the Syrian security carried out inspection campaigns in Al Aedin camp in Homs searching for Palestinian Syrian refugees at the age of military service. Security forces also carried out random ID checks inside the camp including in the streets, shops and crossing points leading up to the camp. AGPS sources confirmed that Syrian security forces had arrested current university students with the plan to conscript them despite a formal freeze in recruitment activities.

Syrian security agencies and loyal groups launched campaigns that raided the homes of the camp, searching for young people who were in charge of compulsory recruitment. The security detachment of Al Aedin camp in Homs compiled a list of prohibitions on the camp, which was enforced rigorously. It included old and new furniture and other building/construction material without exception, where they had been subjected to long and complicated approval procedures, and which involved statements from owners of the materials. They also banned announcements of the deceased through the loudspeakers of the mosque (a camp tradition) or public condolences if the victims had died outside of Syria. This is because they were considered as traitors to the country.

The death of any person was also not allowed to be declared without the approval of the Directorate of Religious Endowments in Homs city. The security detachment forced Bisan Hospital management to reveal the names

of all of their patients that came in each day. Military and political patrols raided the rented house of refugee, Asaad Murad-Abu Nayef without any declared reason. The campaign was conducted with the use of several security vehicles and a generous component of security personnel causing panic among residents.

The western neighborhood of the camp was also raided as well as part of the northern district. Security personnel inspected all the houses including the roofs. 70 personnel in total were involved in the campaign, which lasted for three hours without any mentioned reason. The campaign was under the supervision of the Refugees Department Foundation Director in the camp.

Palestinian activists mentioned that the Syrian security services followed the displacement policy against residents of Al Aedin camp for Palestinian refugees in Homs - inspection campaigns, home raids and arrests. The raids were supervised by Syrian security detachment in the camp. As a result many civilians stayed in their homes, young people and students even stopped going to their institutes and universities out of fear of being arrested. 186 Palestinian refugees are presently languishing in the Syrian regime authorities' prisons.

Health Conditions

AGPS monitored the medical situation in Al Aedin camp over the period in question. They ascertained that prior to the conflict, camp residents received medical assistance through the public health institutions in Homs city. Clinics inside the camp include UNRWA clinic and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), which also contributed to the provision of medical services via Bisan Hospital, located in the centre of the camp.

The group said that "There were six specialised clinics, as well as general medicine clinics concerned with providing health services inside the camp in exchange for varying wages. A field study indicated that 37 doctors, 20 nurses, and dozens of technicians were working in the medical centre in the camp sharing their work inside and outside the camp".

As the Syrian conflict started to impinge onto the camp, Palestinian refugees were unable to access centres or public hospitals. Residents relied on two basic health centres inside the camp offering them free health services (UNRWA), or with little costs (PRCS), in addition to secondary sources, which rely on private doctors' offices and reasonable wages compared with other wages but not all residents can go there.

On 1 February 2016, PRCS in Al Aedin camp in Homs launched a health awareness campaign in the UNRWA run schools. It was initially run in Barwa School and Red Crescent volunteers provided residents with advice on how the children could protect themselves from disease through personal hygiene. They also distributed leaflets to others in the camp in order to prevent swine flu (H1N1); but many of the camp's doctors and nurses migrated because of the security and poor living conditions in the camp.

Living Status

Conditions in the camp were impacted by the general hardship of the war plus the restrictions imposed on the camp by the Syrian security authorities.

On 21 June 2015, the iron fence was installed that separated Al Aedin camp and surrounding neighbourhoods including the university on the west from the neighbourhoods of Al Waleed Suburb, Ikrima neighbourhood and Al Thahab Valley in the east. The fence made a social impact and communication between those on either side of the fence including between relatives. This made reaching them twice as long and twice as expensive as they had to use a route that ventured south across the Tadmor roundabout in order to reach the Levant, which many also had to do for appointments at the UNRWA clinic and Bisan Hospital.

The fence's construction also separated shops from their customers – impacting their business.

On 15 February 2016, an Al Aedin camp detachment whose mandate was political security, questioned 'peddlers' in the camp on where they lived and which locations they worked. Activists in the camp believe that such collection of 'security data' would prompt many of them to leave. Syrian security officials issued decisions to many of these vendors, saying they could not sell their goods in the streets of the camp. Detachment patrols were informed on 22 July 2015 of this decision and that there also had to be restrictions on mourning tents due to the narrow size of houses.

AL AEDIN CAMP IN HAMA

Al Aedin camp attracted a large number of displaced families from other camps and cities in Syria. But security on their entry and exit from the camp also tightened as a campaign of raids and arrests commenced.

On 23 February 2016, Syrian security officials released a Palestinian refugee,

Marwan al-Asaad, a resident of Al Aedin camp in Hama after he was detained for several months. AGPS documented the names of 51 Palestinian detainees from Al Aedin camp in Hama whose fate is still unknown. In addition, AGPS documented the names of 20 Palestinian victims from Al Aedin, who had died since the beginning of the conflict in 2011. A thorough survey of events over the six-month period in question could not take place however.

AL RAML CAMP IN LATAKIA

Raids and arrests became commonplace in Al Raml Camp, Latakia as well. While many of them were performed by the Syrian security services, pro-Palestinian groups that supported the Syrian regime also raided some of the houses, even taking some as their headquarters. Young Palestinian refugees were conscripted to fight for the Syrian regular army and prosecuted if they refused. This encouraged many of them to flee the country. Aside from this, there is relative stability in the camp although residents also suffer from poor economic conditions - food prices remain high as do rents.

2. PALESTINIAN COMPOUNDS (MUZEEREEB - QUDSEIA)

MUZEEREEB COMPOUND

Muzeereeb camp in southern Syria is populated by more than 8,500 Palestinian refugees. During the first half of 2016, assassination attempts were carried out by unknown parties, enabled by the lax security in the compound.

Activists accused Syrian security forces of being behind assassination attempts and the explosive devices that were placed in armed opposition controlled areas. Others called it a liquidation process for members of the armed opposition. However, other activists accused foreign intelligence services in the southern regions of Syria.

Significant Events

- On 3 February 2016, Muzeereeb camp was exposed to artillery bombing by the Syrian regular army, who bombed several neighbouring towns to Muzeereeb town.
- On 9 March 2016, warplanes attacked Muzeereeb town causing a state of panic and fear among residents, especially children.
- On 10 March 2016, an explosion occurred in Muzeereeb town in Der'aa Governorate. This resulted from an explosive device that was planted in the car of Palestinian refugee, Hamdan Al Ramah in an attempt to assassinate him. Al Ramah is accused of leading kidnapping gangs in the region.
- On 21 March 2016, an explosive device exploded in Muzeereeb town, which was planted by unknown persons in front of a shop on the main road. It created a massive explosion leading to the destruction of a house front, although no injuries were caused.
- On 21 April 2016, an explosive device targeted one of the opposition field leaders causing damage to private property but without causing injuries.
- On 11 May 2016, clashes occurred using heavy and light arms, between groups affiliated with the opposition and Al Mathna and Al-Yarmouk martyrs brigade affiliated with ISIS. Clashes occurred in Al Shajarah and Ain Thaker villages near Muzeereeb town where dozens of Palestinian families live.

Health Conditions

Palestinian refugees in southern Syria, including Muzeereeb, Glen, Tal Shehab, and other areas in the governorate, in general have suffered from poor health conditions. The medical system has been destroyed because of hostilities, and there is a severe shortage in medicine, medical equipment, and first aid. Ambulances are used to transfer patients to receive appropriate medical treatment.

On 15 May 2016, Palestine Charity Organisation, together with the ambulance service in southern Syria, celebrated the graduation of 35 paramedics and lifeguards. The graduates had to perform a simulated rescue of two drowning victims and administer first aid.

Relief Activities

Aid is particularly lacking in the region. Der'aa governorate is controlled by the Syrian regime and they issued a decision stating that Palestinians in Der'aa are not allowed to receive aid. Residents of the Muzeereeb camp are also discriminated against by the opposition, when they distribute aid. However, the Palestine Charity Commission continued to offer its services for Palestinian refugees in Muzareeb camp.

- On 1 April 2016, the Palestine Charity Commission distributed around 300 food baskets for displaced Palestinian refugees in Glen area and adjacent towns in southern Syria, suffering from water and electricity cuts.
- On 10 June 2016, Palestine Charity Commission carried out a summer club for the children of Muzareeb town. Psychological support programs for children who suffered from the war scourge and harsh living conditions were provided by the summer Club as well many interesting cultural activities.
- On 18 June 2016, Palestine Charity Commission in southern Syria and in cooperation with several relief organisations, distributed food items to Palestinian refugees in Muzareeb, Tal Shehab, Tabriaat, Ajmi, Glen, and Taseel.
- On 18 June 2016, Palestine Charity Commission and Shorooq Al Shams Foundation, distributed sponsorships for 50 orphans at the value of US\$50 per month.

QUDSEIA COMPOUND

In the first half of 2016, the regular army had control of Qudseia in Damascus, which impacted the conditions in the compound. Bread has been scarce to be provided, because of the scarcity of its ingredients and food prices are too high. One bread tie could cost up to 325 SYP, the equivalent of US\$0.60.

Fuel for heating has also been lacking in the city. When it is available, the prices are high, up to 400 SYP, the equivalent of US\$0.70 per litre of diesel fuel and 200 SYP for a kilo of dry firewood. Medication is also lacking. Activists said that Qudseia suffered from significant food crisis due to the lack of basic ingredients such as flour, leading to the price increases. Garbage also started to accumulate in the streets of many towns, threatening further health impacts. One of those trapped in the compound said that “children’s milk and necessities are missing, parents have nothing to provide their children with”. He also said that the situation in the region was heading towards a famine.

On 4 January 2016, a number of Palestinian families living in centres in Qudseia, called on humanitarian and relief organisations to offer help, particularly over the winter. An activist working in a housing centre said that “families are in dire need for means of keeping warm including firewood, and winter clothes for children. Five children died during the last winter because of the harsh cold”. He applied blame to ‘responsible’ persons for the deaths of Palestinian refugees that was caused by cold and starvation. 6,000 Palestinian families were displaced from the Yarmouk Camp and other camps to Qudseia in Damascus. The suburb has particularly suffered because the regular army had besieged the area since 23 July 2015. Palestinian refugees were not allowed to exit or enter the camp unless they were government employees. Goods have also not been allowed in unless bribes were paid at the checkpoints.

The high rents in Qudseia town meant that displaced Palestinian families were mostly confined to housing centres.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES OF SYRIA IN THE NEW DIASPORA

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES OF SYRIA IN LEBANON

According to UNRWA statistics, the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon, up until the end of February 2015, numbered about 42,150,000 refugees – the equivalent of 12,720 families spread over different Lebanese cities, inside and outside of the camps. However, statistics carried out by popular committees of the PLO inside and outside the camps in October 2015, indicated that the presence of 33,198 Palestinian refugees from Syria was the equivalent of 11,066 families.

This disparity is due to the continuous migration of Palestinians of Syria and their reunion with their families, where one person has already migrated for instance. In addition, dozens of families return to Syria because of the precarious legal and living conditions for them to stay in Lebanon. There are also different mechanisms/methods used for counting the refugees.

According to UNRWA, 55% of Palestinian refugees' families from Syria are located inside 12 major camps, while 45% live outside of camps and inside Lebanese Palestinian cities and communities.

Distribution and Characteristics

14% of Palestinian refugees from Syria live in in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon. The largest number of refugees, are in southern Lebanon between Sidon and Sour, representing about 53% of the population.

The average age of Palestinian refugees from Syria is 25.6 years of age. 54% are female. A study launched by UNRWA with the American University of Beirut in May 2016, stated that the Syrian-Palestinian household, on average comprises of 5 or 6 members of the family, the sponsor range, Intema, is 66%, and the average age of the family guardian is 47 years-old. The study also indicated that 24% of households are headed by women, and that in 52% of families, its head is between 35-54 years of age, with 12% being over 65 years of age. A previous study also showed that 67% of those above 18 years-old and married, 24% are single and 6% are widowed.

Relief

In the first half of 2015, relief work in the camps decreased, bar the month of Ramadan, June. Some organisations delivered food baskets to the majority of Palestinian refugees coming from Syria to Lebanon.

On 3 January 2016, AGPS received messages from displaced Palestinian families to Tyre city, complaining about the carelessness of relief organisations and charities for not providing them with aid. According to the families, they were suffering from difficult socio-economic conditions.

UNRWA distributed monthly cash allowances to purchase for food baskets worth US\$27 per head, amounting to less than a dollar a day, but it excluded approximately 770 families who were ineligible to receive aid. UNRWA also gave families special aid in the form of shelter assistance. Although it was claimed this was done 'erratically'. The social instability that Palestinian refugees were vulnerable to, meant that women and children resorted to going out to work at low pay.

Health Status

The majority of Palestinian refugees depend on UNRWA to access primary medical care. Surgical operations are covered by UNRWA, but Palestinian refugees from Syria encounter the latency of bureaucracy, which acts as a barrier to attaining medical referral - UNRWA obligate patients to obtain approval from the Syria offices. Palestinian refugees then wait 30-90 days, during which they are forced to wait or seek another provider.

A study shows that 83% of Palestinian refugees from Syria, who have moved to Lebanon, suffer from a chronic disease. 10% will have a disability. According to the same study, health conditions improve amongst this group in correlation with education.

Legal Status

The unstable legal status⁽⁹⁾ of Palestinian refugees from Syria still remains and is at the mercy of arbitrary decision making by the Lebanese General Security⁽¹⁰⁾. A study launched by UNRWA with the American University of Beirut showed that "Palestinian refugees coming from Syria live in constant

(9) for more details see Status Report, published by PRC - AGPS and Vidar - February 2014- the Legal Status of the Palestinians of Syria refugees in Lebanon page 43-49 and 95, <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/sitreport.pdf>

(10) Palestinians of Syria on the Life Baths- the Annual Report on the AGPS website: <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/sitreport.pdf>

fear of deportation”. This is linked to a decline in students, not living in camps compared with residents of the camp and Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanese schools.

About 60.6 % of Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon are in fear of deportation, and 67.8% fear safety from their families. Moreover, around 57.1% of Palestinian refugees from Syria expressed feelings of insecurity due to the social environment there.

Human Rights Violations

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon, are required to visit European embassies as a procedural step, which is necessary in order to complete the process of reuniting them with their families. They are often humiliated, insulted and subject to verbal curses from various members of the Lebanese General Security and Syrian-Lebanese border patrol. On 16 January 2016, Palestinian refugee Tasneem tried to reach the Lebanese capital of Beirut for an interview to determine reunification in one of the European embassies. She said that “she and other Palestinian refugees were exposed to insults and humiliation. Doors were closed on them using excuses, such as saying that they were changing the officer in charge. They did this even though she had a child with her. She also said that “I waited for long hours at the border in vain; it depended on the temperament of the officer in charge. I received an interview appointment in the European embassy, but even then I couldn’t reach it”. Tasneem returned to Syria despite the risks of travelling at night, and the high costs she had to incur trying to reach the border, she explained. She added, “After suffering for a long time, we received an appointment for another interview this month but we will suffer more since we have to wait three months for the new interview, with no guarantees we will be able to enter”. What adds further to this is the non-cooperation of European embassies to facilitate procedures.

Protest Sit-Ins to UNRWA Services Reduction

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian Syrians in Lebanon participated in mass protests called by the so-called special crisis management cell of UNRWA⁽¹¹⁾. The sit-in was held in camps and cities in front of the UNRWA headquarters,

(11) It is a group of representatives from the PLO factions and the national and Islamic Coalition forces in Lebanon, they were chosen by the political leadership to follow up UNRWA decision of Services reduction.

its offices in the camps and in front of United Nations Headquarters (ESCWA). They were protesting against UNRWA for reducing its services in Lebanon.

Protesters demanded the UNRWA administration reverse its recent decisions, especially with regard to its hospital services. Protesters also blamed UNRWA's management in Lebanon for the deteriorating health of Palestinian refugees.

On 17 January 2016, the Committee of Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon called UNRWA to immediately cancel its decision to reduce the hospital services for Palestinian refugees. The Committee demanded its previous decisions were reviewed as well in relation to the reduction of food aid and cash allowances they use for the shelter of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon. These decisions had had the impact of continuing their plight and worsening their living and humanitarian conditions.

UNRWA Crisis and Palestinian of Syria in Lebanon

The case of Palestinians of Syria, living in Lebanon, and their treatment by UNRWA, was taken up by the factions. They have been seen as suffering from the worst consequences of UNRWA's decision making.

In this context, several meetings emphasised the following was needed:

- Reverse the actions taken by UNRWA against Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.
- Re-cash related aid for shelter allowance.
- Re-cash aid to families that had been cut and classed as unqualified under the pretext that a decision on asylum is still in progress.
- Compile accurate statistics on the number of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon and provide the necessary data to determine policy decisions.

A Sit-in to Demand Immigration

On 11 January 2016, dozens of displaced Palestinian refugees of Syrian in Lebanon, organised a sit-in in front of the Canadian embassy headquarters in the Lebanese capital of Beirut to demand legitimate immigration as a result of the miserable living, legal and economic conditions they suffer in Lebanon. Protesters delivered a message to him at the Canadian Embassy where they explained their desire to immigrate after they lost all their possessions in Syria due to ongoing conflict and their suffering in Lebanon.

The protesters also demanded the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Western embassies in Beirut allow immigration for Palestinian refugees after the Lebanese government closed all doors to them.

Youth Creativity

On 18 March 2016, a judgment committee of Manassat Al Mustaqbal chose to support young writers coming from Syria. This initiative was organised by the Trends - Culture Foundation in cooperation with Shams Foundation, using ten play scripts written by four Palestinian Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Writers, Hadeel Al-Sahli, Dania Ghanayem, Heba Mari and Hanadi Alshbtah were chosen from the residents of the Yarmouk Camp in Syria to win the Manasat award. Their selected texts were to be performed at Dawar Al Shams Theatre in Tayouneh, Beirut by Ziqaq Band. Hadeel Al-Sahli, was born in 1992, he was from the Yarmouk Camp and wrote "The drowned - last moments of fear", which shed light on the suffering of Palestinian refugees who migrated via the sea in 'death boats'.

Hanadi Alshbtah, informatics engineer, a resident of the Yarmouk Camp who was also born in 1992, wrote a play called "First siege". It talks about the Yarmouk Camp siege. Dania Ghanayem, was born in 1992 and wrote "Jasmine Guantanamo" about the suffering of Wesam, a young Palestinian man who came to Lebanon from Syria and the setbacks he encountered while trying to build a future, which disappeared after the war. Another, "Divine Message", dealt with a young girl's experience moving from the Yarmouk Camp in Syria to the Shatila camp in Lebanon, to work in the field of literacy with refugee women.

Intima'a Campaign

On 18 April 2016, dozens of Palestinians of Syria and committees of civil work were concerned about the situation of Palestinian Syrian refugees in Lebanon. They participated in a press conference which launched an international campaign to preserve the Palestinian identity card -Intima. They launched on the 68th anniversary for the Nakba. The Press conference was held in the Lebanese Press Syndicate in Beirut with the attendance of a number of Palestinian institutions and associations from Lebanon and others.

Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon were not the only intended audience, their activities were shared across Lebanon and included traditional exhibitions, sports activities, competitions and awareness raising lectures across Lebanon.

Solidarity Sit-in

On 24 April 2016, Nashid Cultural and Social Society and Al-Basma Club organised a solidarity sit-in in Ain Al-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon, southern Lebanon. Residents of the Yarmouk Camp with representatives of Palestinian factions, Palestinians in Syria Committee and displaced Palestinians from Syria to Lebanon, demanded Yarmouk Camp be saved from ISIS so residents could return.

Ending Gaza siege

On 3 June 2016, Palestinians from Syria shared the Ending Gaza Siege Campaign through a sit-in held by the campaign in Lebanon against UN headquarters in ESCWA in Beirut. Palestinians from Syria also joined a flotilla organised by ICRC in at the Tyre port in southern Lebanon on 11 June 2016, in solidarity with those who have been trapped in the Gaza Strip for ten years.

Civilian and Relief Work

Syrian Palestinian civil society organisations in Lebanon distributed aid to refugees and held a number of nationalistic events.

- On 5 January 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon, as part of the “Winter Warmth” project, distributed diesel, provided by Humanitarian Relief for Development Foundation, to displaced Syrian Palestinian families in Beqaa, Lebanon, particularly to curb the snow storm that affected Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East.
- On 8 January 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon and the World Compassion Convoy distributed in-kind aid to 170 Palestinian families in Syria displaced in Beqaa, after the blizzard. Mattresses, blankets and food baskets were distributed to 100 displaced Syrian Palestinian families in Majdal Anjar area, 70 gallons of diesel was distributed to Palestinians in Syria residing in Bar Elias in mid Beqaa. Along with the Jerusalem Charity Committee, Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon also distributed winter clothes to Palestinian Syrian families displaced to the Bedawi camp near Tripoli in northern Lebanon, of which children were the main focus.
- On 17 January 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon distributed urgent relief to around 20 Palestinian Syrian families displaced to the Beqaa Valley camps. They distributed winter blankets,

40 litres of diesel and food items. Distribution also included nearly 30 family members of Bar Elias in the Middle Beqaa region.

- On 18 January 2016, Al Forqan Association for Charity Work distributed a number of aid items to newly arrived Palestinian Syrian families in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon, southern Lebanon. Aid included food items, winter blankets and mattresses.
- On 3 January 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon also participated in distributing diesel to 200 displaced Palestinian families from the Syria Galilee camp in Lebanon.
- On 24 January 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee responded to the economic depression in Lebanon by carrying out inspections of 950 Palestinian Syrian families displaced in Beqaa and their living standards. According to residents, the committee provided houses with plastic covers for protection from leaking rainwater into the house. They also provided diesel.
- On 24 January 2016, in coordination with the follow-up committee, the PRCS celebrated a first aid graduation course, held for a group of Palestinian Syrians in Al Awda Club in Al Zaina Valley, Al Kharoob region, southern Lebanon.
- On 30 January 2016, Al Wafaa European Campaign distributed aid to a number of Syrian Palestinian families living in Bourj al-Barajneh camp in Lebanon. According to those in charge of the campaign, they distributed food parcels, blankets and mattresses. According to them, this campaign was an extension of the “Together towards Warm Winter” campaign, initiated a few months prior.
- On 12 February 2016, in cooperation with Al Ershad Wa El Islah Association, Charity Organisation for the Relief of Palestinian Refugees, distributed winter clothes to Palestinian Syrian families displaced to Al Zainah valley in the Kharoub province of southern Lebanon. 220 displaced families as well as families already living in the area, benefited from the project.
- On 6 March 2016, Charity Organisation for the Relief of Palestinian Refugees opened Afaq Educational Centre for Palestinian Syrian refugees and displaced Syrians in Al Zainah valley. The Siblin Mayor, sheikhs, associations, charities and other notables of the area were all present.
- On 21 March 2016, Al Wafaa European Campaign, in Middle Beqaa, started their initiative to help Palestinian Syrian families living in difficult conditions in these mountainous areas. The Malaysian

delegation accompanying the campaign, visited displaced families in Beqaa area and provided residents with a number of food baskets, as well financial aid.

- On 28 March 2016, the Palestinians of Syria Committee in Lebanon and Al Taqwa Committee distributed summer clothes in Al Taqwa Mosque hall for a number of Palestinian Syrian families displaced in Nahr al-Bared in Tripoli camp, northern Lebanon. The Commission visited poor displaced Palestinian families from Syria in Nahr al-Bared and provided financial aid and medical treatment to the elderly.
- On 7 May 2016, the Palestinian Teachers Forum of Syria in Lebanon delivered an intensive course for preparatory school students from displaced Palestinians of Syria to Nahr al-Bared in Tripoli, the northern Lebanon camp. The course included tutorial lessons in mathematics, physics, chemistry, science and English.
- On 7 May Afaq Educational Centre announced that they would start implementing a number of courses aimed at providing psychological support to its students - Palestinian Syrian refugees, displaced to Al Zaina Valley. The courses were to evaluate 'right' and 'wrong' as well as to address certain psychological problems that were affecting children. Courses were organised according to age and each child received five sessions of support each. The courses were supervised by specialist organisations and managed by experienced and highly rated, trained volunteers.

A study by UNRWA with the American University of Beirut in 2015⁽¹²⁾ found the following statistics about Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon:

1. The average Palestinian refugee from Syria in Lebanon is aged 25-26 years-old.
2. Palestinian refugees who arrived in Lebanon from Syria have larger families than Palestinian refugees already living in Lebanon – comparably 5.6 family members to 4.5 family members.
3. The average age of the family guardian in a Palestinian Syrian refugee family is 46 years-old.
4. 24% of families are headed by women, and 52% of the guardians of these families are aged between 35-54 years-old, 12% of them are over 65.
5. 67% of refugees over 18 are married, while 24% are single and 6% are widowed.
6. 9.2% live in extreme poverty (3,500 refugees cannot provide their basic food needs). 89.1% are generally poor (35,000 refugees are unable to provide their basic food and non-food needs).

(12) <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/aub-and-unrwa-launch-survey-socioeconomic-status-palestine-refugees-lebanon>

7. Per capita income is less than US\$140 per month. Average monthly per capita income overall is around US\$195, and for a Lebanese citizen it is US\$429.
8. Average attendance at school rates are lower than that of other Palestinian refugees in Lebanon at the various educational levels. The reasons for this include the distance to schools and universities, restrictions on movement and the inability to buy necessary resources.
9. Distribution in schools is accordingly: 88.3% in primary school, 69.6% in preparatory school, and 35.8% in secondary school. The percentage of students who live in camps and attend school is 93.7% compared to 82.6% who live in areas outside the camps. Restrictions that are imposed on these students means movement outside the camps and thus education outside the camps, is difficult.
10. Unemployment is at 52.5% - 48.5% for men and 68.1% for women.
11. The majority work in low-paid jobs and are often subject to exploitative and unsafe working conditions.
12. 53.4% of workers receive their wages daily, while the majority (97.7%) have only verbal employment agreements, making it possible for their employers to terminate their contract at any time without any prior notice. 98.2% of workers will not be allowed sick or annual leave.
13. Most refugees are reliant on UNRWA's health and social services. 83% suffer from chronic disease.
14. 10% have a disability.
15. 6% have food security and 63% suffer from acute food insecurity.
16. 46% live in cramped houses with difficult living conditions. 81.1% suffer from humidity in their housing. 68% experience water leaks and 56.4% have poor ventilation. 57.6% of houses are too dark.
17. In Lebanon for instance, Palestinian refugees fleeing from Sirya are subjected to tight restrictions on their freedom of movement. They don't have access to proper work conditions due to exploitations.
18. They live in constant fear of deportation as the inclination to avoid registering those not living in camps increases. An average of 60.6% fear deportation and 67.8% fear for the safety of their families.
19. 57.1% feel insecure due to unstable social conditions.
20. About 64% of refugees from Syria come to Lebanon already poor.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM SYRIA TO GAZA

Previous AGPS reports have detailed the suffering experienced by Palestinian Syrian refugees displaced to the Gaza Strip. AGPS have continued to document their situation, which remains precarious.

- On 11 February 2016, the Joint Coordinating Authority – spokespersons of Palestinian refugees in Syria, Yemen and Libya and the Gaza Strip - announced that they would be carrying out a protest/sit-in after the news of a special work program in the Gaza Strip had spread. The aim was to also involve those displaced in Yemen, Libya and those still in Syria in the plan..
- The Authority said “the protests come as the government and relevant institutions continue to ignore our suffering, there has been no serious attempt to find radical solutions for the suffering of over 400 Palestinian families from Syria, Libya or Yemen and there has been failure to provide a living for our children”.
- On 18 February 2016, dozens of Palestinians from Syria gathered near the Saraya roundabout in the Gaza Strip to carry out a sit-in, expressing their anger about government carelessness and factional negligence towards them. Protesters demanded that both Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas and the National Unity Government headed by Al-Hamdullah, put an end to their suffering in the Gaza Strip, secure suitable employment opportunities for them, and ensure their access to allocated aid.
- Others called for Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, to alleviate their suffering, recounting his promise several years ago to secure adequate housing and job opportunities for them. Residents also expressed their disapproval that the Rafah crossing had been closed by the Egyptian government, preventing them from leaving the Gaza Strip and travelling to other countries.
- On 17 March 2016, Palestinian Authority (PA) passports were distributed to a group of Palestinian refugees from Syria who had come to the Gaza Strip.
- On 4 June 2016, the Joint Coordination committee, representatives of Palestinian refugees from Syria, Yemen and Libya in the Gaza Strip, and the Committee of Refugees from Syria Affairs, appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation to take steps to find solutions to the

plight of refugees from Arab countries. They also blamed international institutions who took on the mandate of refugees from conflict, as well as relevant national institutions, in particular, the PA.

- A message was directed to Zakaria al-Agha, an executive committee member and head of the Department of Refugee Affairs with the PLO. It said that refugees from Arab countries did not receive the aid promised from 2015, which was due three months prior. To date there had been no serious discussion about viable mechanisms that would implement the cabinet decision that refugees have a right to job opportunities and shelter.
- In their message, the bodies describe the displacement of Palestinian refugees to the Gaza Strip as tragic as their situation became more difficult due to increased poverty and starvation, which pervaded all families without exception. They also called for the Head of the Palestinian Refugee Affairs Department to pursue this issue out of national and moral responsibility.
- On 7 June 2016, the Joint Coordination Authority organised a solidarity sit-in with the participation of Palestinian refugees from Syria, Iraq and Libya. In a press release, organisers called the Palestinian Ministry of Finance in Ramallah to call them to provide the housing allowances due seven months prior .

Mr. Atef Al Emawi, Head of the Committee, described the Palestinian Ministry of Finance in Ramallah as being a 'follower of an ignorant policy'. He called on the PLO and the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, to stand with the families during the holy month of Ramadan. He called for a clear mechanism to be put in place in order to implement the Cabinet decisions of 5 April 2016 session number 97.

Mr. Mohammed Al Sheikh, Chairman of Haqqi Association, concerned with refugees from Syria, Libya, Yemen and Iraq, said that that this sit-in reflected the anger felt by refugees who hadn't received an allowance for several months.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM SYRIA TO TURKEY

No change was seen in Turkey's position of refusing entry of Palestinian Syrians to the country through official crossing points. Turkey Syria borders were tightened. At the end of 2015, AGPS documented a number of deaths amongst the refugees, caused by Turkish border guards⁽¹³⁾. This led to a large influx of refugees from Syria into Turkey.

Living and economic conditions were still tumultuous and job opportunities were scarce for Palestinian refugees. The vast majority of refugees depend on charity provided by relief agencies. The Turkish government stopped issuing ID cards (Kimlik) for Syrians and Palestinians alike, under the pretext that they had to issue new laws that govern the conditions of refugees in the country. A comprehensive census of Palestinians took place by the Palestinian embassy in Ankara and Vidar Association in Istanbul. This was given to the Turkish authorities and is awaiting next steps.

Laws imposed on Syrian or Palestinian refugees who previously owned an ID card (Kimlik) after leaving the Turkish territory to reunite with their families or when traveling on to another destination, held special travel permission from the Turkish government (Alkimlik).

General Census and Distribution

The estimated number of Palestinian Syrians in Turkey falls between 5,000 and 7,000 refugees but the Palestinians of Turkey Committee was able to document their number as 4,515 refugees distributed through Turkey as follows:-

Updated statistics for the Palestinians from Syria in Turkey up till 1 June 2016

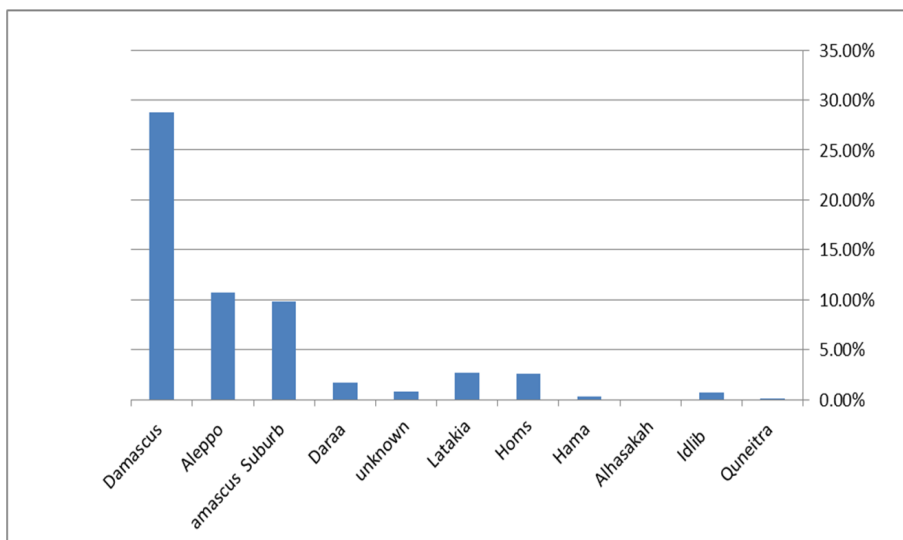
Place	Individuals	Families	Percentage
Turkey's South Governorates	1142	304	43.4
Middle Governorates "Anadol"	368	95	13.98
Istanbul Governorate	1122	294	42.62
General Average	2632	693	%100

(13) Palestinians of Syria on the Life Paths- the Annual Report on the AGPS website: <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/sitreport.pdf>

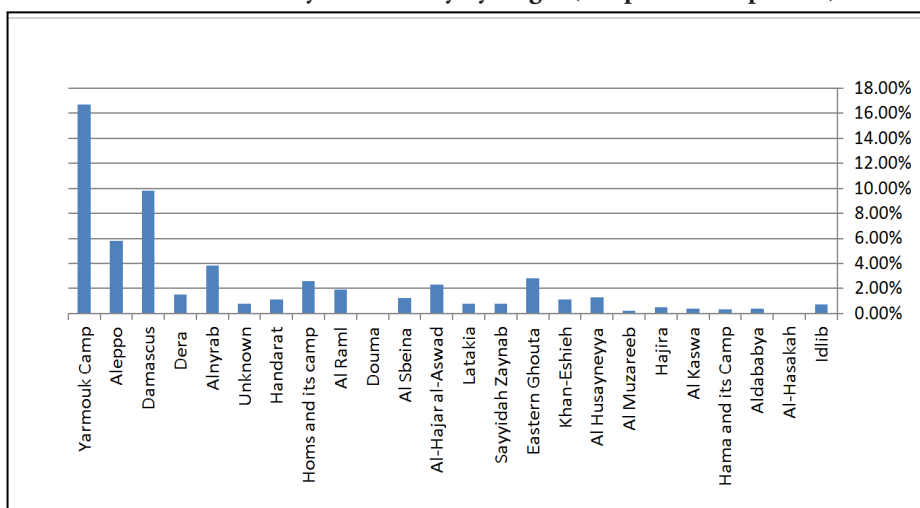
Palestinian Refugees According to Origin

The statistics showed that 38.3% of Palestinian refugees in Turkey came from Damascus and its Suburb, including 462 families or 1,745 refugees in total. 10.7% were from Aleppo, including 115 families. 16.7% came from the Yarmouk Camp in Turkey, including 207 families or 753 individuals.

Palestinians from Syria in Turkey by origin (Governorate)



Palestinians from Syria in Turkey by origin (camps and compounds)



Significant Events

On 6 January 2016, the Palestinians of Turkey committee distributed financial assistance to Palestinian Syrian families who had been displaced to Antakya City in Turkey. According to the committee, about 90 Palestinian Syrian families, registered with the association, live in Antakya City in Turkey.

- On 14 January 2016, the delegation of Palestine Scholars Association abroad, the Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (Vidar), and Palestine Charity Committee, discussed with the Turkish Prime Minister for Refugees Advisor, Dr. Mustafa Yech, the Palestinian refugees situations in Turkey. The delegation presented a summary of the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Turkey. Mr. Mustafa Yech said “Turkey is the homeland for all those oppressed and the suffering of Palestinian refugees has been received. They have made a decision for equality for Palestinian refugees (inside Turkey or accessing into) and to provide them with all equal privileges without exception”. Statements and pledges had not been implemented, however, up until the time that this report was being prepared, which was six months after they were issued. According to the delegation, it was agreed with Dr. Yech to provide general procedures and legal requirements for Palestinians in Turkey, but that Palestinian institutions should administer them and be the ones to grant residency to them as standard uniform rule.

The committees forming the delegation stressed that it would continue its efforts to improve the situation of Palestinians from Syria, through coordination with Turkish officials and to allow Palestinian refugees to obt a regular visa, rather than exposing them to danger through smuggling operations. They should also facilitate the procedures for obtaining PA passports for refugees so they can be free.

- On 25 January 2016, the Turkish Minister of Education “Nabi Afjai” contacted a Palestinian girl, Maria Faour, to show their support after the management of her school prevented her from attaining a school certificate at the end of term because she did not have a Kimlik residency. The Turkish Minister sent the Education Director in the state of Kayseri to visit the child in her home, giving her a certificate and some gifts. Media outlets confirmed that the minister instructed the schools in Turkey to receive the Palestinian Syrian children without any limits.

- On 28 January 2016, The Turkish Bulbul Zadeh Society with the Palestinians of Syria committee in Turkey, visited Palestinian Syrian families who were the poorest in the city of Kelis southern Turkey. They provided them with food and financial assistance. For its part, the Committee of the Palestinians of Turkey briefed the Turkish delegation to the Society on the suffering and difficulties felt by the Palestinian refugees in Turkey. Mostly, this involved the inability to exit and enter the country. They demonstrated the figures and numbers of Palestinian students who did not join schools because of the lack of parents' abilities to secure transportation fees, which amounted to 75-90 Turkish Lira per student per month.
- On 29 January 2016, a consultative meeting was held by Vidar with the Palestinian Ambassador in Turkey Dr. Faed Mustafa at Vidar headquarters. The meeting focused on organising the legal status of Palestinians of Syria in Turkey, after agreement with Turkish authorities about the census and lists of Palestinian families who would obtain legal residency.
- Vidar Association and the Palestinian Embassy discussed mechanisms for organising the statistics and records, submitting them to the concerned authorities of the Turkish government to facilitate the Palestinian refugees for residency and legal status.
- On 6 February 2016, the Palestinian Embassy and the Association of the Palestinian community in Turkey and Vidar, announced data collection procedures for the Palestinians of Syria and Iraq in Turkey.
- It was decided to start the process of granting residencies by a comprehensive census for the Palestinians of Syria, which would open the way for them to enter the Turkish labour market and ease movement within the country. These measures have not seen the light of day, however, even though census operations ended several months before the conclusion of this report. Turkish embassies still refused to grant entry visas to Palestinian Syrian refugees.
- On 17 February 2016, Palestinian refugees Imad Azzouz, his wife Hanan Mousa and Amna Yusuf Saleh from Sayeda Zeinab camp in Damascus, died while trying to cross the Syrian-Turkish border, because Turkish border guards shot them while trying to cross into Turkish territory from the Qamishli - Qahtaniyah in Syria.
- On 26 February 2016, the committee of the Palestinians of Turkey distributed aid to Palestinian Syrian families who were displaced to the Turkish city of Mrash. Aid included food baskets, childrens' towels and childrens' milk. The

committee also visited the poorest families in their homes to look at their living conditions and provided them with cash assistance.

- On 1 March 2016, the Turkish authorities handed over the bodies of the three Palestinian refugees who had been shot by the Turkish army while crossing the Turkish border Hanan Musa (born 18 December 1975), Amena Saleh (born 10 September 1993) and Imad Azzouz (born on 1 December 1982). They handed the bodies to the General Authority for Palestinian Refugees Affairs in the Syrian interim government, and were buried according to Islamic rules. One child, the son, in the same family, Jafar Azzouz, survived and was received by his grandmother.

The Family of the Palestinian Syrian refugee Mohamed Ahmed El-Khalili from the Yarmouk Camp accused Turkish border guards of opening fire on their son and killing him in cold blood. The family said in a letter to AGPS that their son, who was accompanied by his wife and children, were trying to cross the Syrian border into Turkey and migrate to European countries. However, border guards opened fire on Muhammad directly in front of his wife and child. The family asked that Turkish authorities and human rights organisations open an investigation for the incident and punish the perpetrators.

- On 6 March 2016, Vidar distributed food baskets to a number of displaced Palestinians of Syria families in Ankara. According to organisers of Vida, the aim of the distribution, which was part of the campaign “Relief Them” was to help Palestinian Syrian families overcome harsh living standards, and stress the need to support Palestinian Syrian refugees in Turkey at every level.
- On 7 March 2016, AGPS addressed an official letter to the Turkish government in Ankara and the Turkish Embassy in London, which condemned repeated attacks on Palestinian Syrian refugees at the Turkish-Syrian border, while they were forced to flee from the conflict. The letter described some of these violations, such as directly shooting at victims, severe beatings and being returned to the Syrian border. The letter considered the accident a clear violation of international conventions and the Universal Charter of Human Rights.
- AGPS called the Turkish government to open an investigation of these alleged violations and asked them to allow Palestinian Syrians in because they endured the same threat to life as other Syrians due to the conflict.
- On 9 March 2016, the Khattb family, a Palestinian Syrian family of four launched an appeal calling for their own release after being arrested at Ataturk Airport in Turkey and were detained for 11 days.

- They called upon the Palestinian Embassy in Turkey, Hamas, the General Committee for Refugees, and the Syrian interim government as well as all the free and honest citizens of the world, to intervene and mediate in order to ensure their release.
- The family said that they reached Ataturk from Brazil, where they had previously sought safe refuge, but said, “we were surprised when we reached Ataturk Airport that the police detained us in one of the airport rooms, they treated us badly and frequently threatened to deport us to Syria”.
- On 17 March 2016, Al Wafa Europe campaign in collaboration with a Dutch organisation, distributed food aid to Palestinian refugees in the Turkish city of Adana. The Islamic Committee to take care of orphans from Palestine distributed financial aid to families there as well as lots of meat to Palestinian families in Mersin.
- On 24 March 2016, the Khattab family, who were seized in Ataturk, appealed to the Palestine Embassy, the PLO, Palestine factions, the General Committee for Palestinian Refugees in the Turkish interim government, UNHCR in Turkey, and human rights organisations to intervene for their release and allow them to remain in Turkey. The Khattab family include Kamel Hosni Khattab (69 years-old), and Ibtisam Ibrahim Falaha (58 years-old), and Mohammed Kamel Khattab (27 years-old), and Roba Kamel Khattab (26 years-old).
- On 2 April 2016, 16 Palestinian refugee families from Syria, living in Mardin Derek refugee camp in Turkey, appealed to Palestinian and humanitarian organisations in order to intervene for their release from the camp and to provide them with a helping hand. They would then be able to secure a safe alternative for their children, particularly after the outbreak of two fires in the camp, which killed four Syrian refugees, including children.

Most people in the refugee camp expressed the most frustration for not being able to provide food for their family due to the large disparity between financial assistance, 80 Turkish Lira, each month per person, and the high cost of raw ingredients.

Diseases had spread among refugees because of the dependence on contaminated water wells for drinking and daily use. Refugees also complained of weak medical care and lack of resources, especially with dry and hot weather and the spread of poisonous snakes and insects. Families, living in tents were unable to provide effective protection from the heat of summer or the cold of winter.

- On 8 April 2016, a group of Palestinian Syrian families became stranded at the Turkish Syrian borders and appealed through AGPS, international humanitarian organisations, the Palestine Embassy and General Commissioner for Refugees to intervene to help gain them access to Turkish territory. Families found themselves stuck as they could not return to their point of origin due to security risks. Reports also documented cases of arrest of Palestinian refugees, especially young people, while they tried to return to their camps.
- In general, any Palestinian refugees could be subject to arrest at security checkpoints of the Syrian Regime, whether the destination was from north to south or vice versa as most refugees would bribe security at the checkpoints to facilitate their crossing.
- This prompted most of those stranded to stay at the border for long periods. One refugee described their situation as miserable, which had affected their psychological condition. They eat and drink from what they had brought with them for the journey and slept at the smugglers' houses. One house contained a number of families, he said. Turkish authorities established observation towers to monitor moving objects that approached the border with Syria. Warnings would then be dispatched from the towers in Turkish, English and Arabic to any moving object that approached from at least 300 meters from the border.
- On 12 April 2016, dozens of displaced Palestinian Syrians in Al Rihaniyya city, in Southwest Turkey, participated in a 'Fun Day' organised by the International Campaign to preserve the Palestinian identity "Intema". They did this with the Hope of the Nation Club, which taught Quranic lessons.
- On 17 April 2016, the Khattab family, who had been detained for 50 days at Ataturk airport, appealed through AGPS for their release.
- On 18 April 2016, the campaign "warm me up three" the Islamic Society for Relief of the Orphans and Poor people provided displaced Palestinian Syrian families in southern Turkey with financial aid.

The Society also provided a sponsorship for about 500 displaced families for six months. According to those in charge of the Society, they are launching a project to ensure that all families, where the Palestinians of 48 will sponsor the Palestinian families each according to the original village or city that the refugee belong to in Turkey.

THE PALESTINIANS FROM SYRIA REFUGEES IN EUROPE

The large flow of migrants in the second half of 2015, led Europe to fortify their border and tighten up procedures, attempting to prevent the arrival of more refugees onto its territory. This included more border patrols in Eastern European countries like Hungary, Bulgaria and Macedonia. Austria, Denmark and Sweden partially suspended some of the free movement rules, by deploying police at transit point to monitor the movement between them and neighbouring countries.

The Number of Palestinians from Syria in Europe

Counting numbers of Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria to Europe is difficult. European authorities do not provide separate statistics for Palestinians from Syria like they do for other refugees. UNHCR categorises most Palestinian refugees as stateless, but they also do the same for Kurds, Sumerians and some of those coming from Gulf states. In total they make up 16% of total refugees.⁽¹⁴⁾

Calculating the number of Palestinian Syrian refugees, who have arrived in Europe, requires further research on existing European migration data and UNHCR data.

Statistics of Palestinians from Syria in Europe between July 2011 and June 2016

After reviewing the bi-annual reports issued by UNHCR between 2011 and 2016, excluding any data on stateless migrants, the following numbers were found.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. of Refugees	2,465	3,513	9,620	13,902

205 statistics of those entering Europe tend to be varied; but Frontex data has been adopted here. In its second quarterly report, it showed that the number of refugees coming from Syria to Europe almost tripled, and accordingly it could be estimated that a similar percentage of Palestinians coming from Syria, which was closer to 41,706 refugees. AGPS provides the caveat, however, that these figures are only unofficial and intelligent estimates.

(14) Statistical Weighting Numbers Methodology of the Palestinians of Syria in Europe by the Economic Researcher Mohammed Yousif

In 2016, most international agencies stopped issuing periodic reports on the subject, notably UNHCR and Frontex. However, taking into account the continued arrival of refugees before the European Turkey agreement could be signed, the monthly number of refugees in January and February is similar to that in 2015, circa 80,000 Palestinian Syrian refugees. It was also documented that there was a hiatus when at the beginning of March 2016. Numbers of arrivals were no more than a few hundred at their highest estimate. This was due to tightened procedures and fortified borders.

The total number of Palestinian Syrian refugees, who had arrived in Europe between 2011 and January 2016, amounted to almost 79,206. Estimated using the same methodology as mentioned in the first paragraph.

Number of Palestinians from Syria in Europe

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	2,465	3,513	9,620	13,902	41,706	8,000
Total Number						79,206

Legal and Humanitarian Conditions

The Legal Status of Palestinians from Syria in Europe

The last six months of 2015 witnessed a tightening of asylum procedures and successive changes that aimed to stop European countries granting maximum duration of stay, usually five years, for refugees from Syria. Sweden started to grant temporary residency for three years renewable or humanitarian protection for 13 months. Germany was also one of the first countries to embark on this procedure several years prior.

In June 2016, asylum law took a turn in Sweden, where it became one of the strictest in history. The Swedish parliament approved measures to tighten rules on asylum and reunion, beginning from 20 July 2016. The length of stay became three years for humanitarian or political asylum and 13 months for humanitarian protection. Those, who had obtained protection, to reunite with their families could not receive asylum. The right to those who received a stay of three years to reunite with families in accordance with the strict conditions may require, in some cases to secure work and adequate housing for the number of the family members joining them.

Denmark reduced funding for refugee assistance and issued a policy of adding the value of any possessions owned by the refugee, to the value of assistance provided – essentially deducting this amount from any monetary package they would ordinarily provide.

Germany received thousands of refugees who had come through other European countries, but they temporarily suspended the Dublin Convention. The Netherlands departed from the approach of many European countries and allowed family reunification for children above the age of 18, if they are the only son or daughter and a bachelor.

Generally, most European countries granted Palestinian refugees from Syria asylum if requested.

Successes and Active Participation

During the first half of 2016, there was a surge in activity, displaying support for Palestinian refugees coming from Syria. A notable number contributed to volunteer activities. Dozens of Palestinian youths took part in events in Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium and Austria. The last three months witnessed a number of activities, exhibitions and sit-ins in solidarity with the people of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

During the first six months of 2016, Palestinians from Syria become involved in relief work. Palestinian Syrian youth in Sweden helped and received new refugees. In addition, many of the Palestinian refugees from Syria joined volunteer teams that conducted visits to asylum centres for new arrivals from Syria. They were provided with advice and guidance to facilitate their new lives in the Netherlands.

Efforts of Palestinian Syrians were also noted while launching the Palestinian community conference in the Netherlands. This saw the election of the administrative management of the community.

Conversely, on 16 January 2016, a group of Palestinian refugees from Syria initiated a campaign in Denmark to collect a sum of money as contribution to alleviate the suffering of their families in Khan Al Sheih camp in Damascus Suburb. This exposed them to bombardment and difficult economic conditions. Many relief agencies began work in the Netherlands and Greece e.g. Jafra Organization in Greece began with a number of initiatives for thousands of stranded migrants in Greece.

The Palestinians of Syria group participated in various international events in Europe, where they organised an art exhibition on the margin

of the Palestinians of Europe conference number 14 in Malmo, Sweden. Thousands of Palestinians of Syria attended the conference to participate in a number of the Palestinian artists from Yarmouk Camp who now live in Switzerland, Germany and Sweden. The artists included Hani Abbas, Mamoun Chaib, Yahya Ashmawi and Fadi Khattab. The most recurrent theme was the portrayal of the suffering of Palestinian refugees from Syria during the war, using oil paintings, cartoons, designs and AGPS statistics. AGPS also participated in the 32nd human rights conference, which took place in Geneva - Switzerland, where AGPS provided recorded testimonials from a number of Palestinian refugee camps in Syria during a seminar that was held with the PRC at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

Many Palestinian youths from Syria participated in international conferences and meetings as well as many local competitions and festivals in Europe. They received numerous awards and advanced places through their participation. The end of 2015 saw the launch of the first Arabic newspaper in Germany called ABWAB, meaning 'doors' in Arabic, supervised by a number of Palestinian Syrian journalists.

Dozens of Palestinian Syrians became an example of European integration. They overcame all difficulties and large losses that were lost during the war and the five years of war and asylum they lived and suffered.⁽¹⁵⁾

(15) Fuad Abu Samir first Syrian Palestinian refugee reaches the most important research centers in Germany, the most important center in Germany opened its doors to Fouad, aged 27 years, so he became the first refugees from Syria working in the scientific and technical field in the Advanced Institute in Germany. Abu Samir will work at the German Desy Institute, which is specialist in the field of electronic technology and research, for a period of three months under training, when passing the period of training he will work as a researcher in the databases department.

REFUGEES ON MIGRATION ROUTES

EU and other countries made concerted efforts to slow the flow of migrants that was witnessed in unprecedented amounts the previous year. This included Turkey, which was found to be a wide door for the entry of migrants to Europe.

The Agreement Signed by Turkey and the European Union and its Impact on Asylum and Immigration Movement from Turkey

On 18 March 2016, the EU and Turkey reached an agreement in Brussels that provided for the return of all new immigrants who arrived in Europe via Turkey starting from 20 March 2016. The core of the agreement specifies that Turkey would work to reduce the flow of refugees to Europe through its territory.

The agreement requires sending the new refugees to Turkey, and admits to accelerate the payment of all of the aid to Turkey and cancelling the visas for Turkish citizens to Europe, and opening some chapters of Turkey's EU accession negotiations.

Significant Terms of the Agreement

- From 20 March 2016, all new refugees, who had arrived from Turkey to the Greek islands, would be subject to the new agreement. The aim was to bring an end to the dangerous trips across the Aegean Sea, and to eliminate the smugglers' work.
- Asylum applications would be reviewed in Greece. Those who do not submit an application for asylum or whose application is not accepted, would be sent back to Turkey. Turkey and Greece would then take necessary steps to help the UNHCR and EU manage the presence of refugees and the EU would cover the costs of the refugees departures.
- At the heart of the agreement is the principle of "one-for-one". That is, for every Syrian (or other potential refugee), who is returned from the Greek islands to Turkey, one will sent from the one of the border camps

in Turkey to the European Union. Priority would be given to those who managed to take legal routes. A maximum limit of 72,000 refugees was set, after which the mechanism is to be reviewed.

- Liberalisation of visas. This is thought to be aimed at speeding up the roadmap for Turkish accession to the EU. Turkish citizens are to be exempt from visas to Europe. The deadline for this term to be put in place has been set for June 2016, but Turkey must meet the 72 qualifying standards first.
- The EU will, in close cooperation with Turkey, speed up disbursement of the €3 billion, which has been allocated under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. Once these resources are used in full, the EU will mobilise additional funding for the Facility, up to an additional €3 billion to the end of 2018.
- Discussion on Turkey's accession to the EU are to be opened up including Chapter 33, during the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Accelerated preparatory work on the opening of other chapters is to continue during this time, as long as no harm is caused to other member countries.

Implications of the Agreement on Migration

Amnesty International said in a report published in early April 2016 that "In a desperate attempt by the European Union to close its borders, the EU ignored deliberately a simple fact that Turkey is not a safe country. The wide forcible return of Syrian refugees by Turkey into Syria clarifies clearly the misleading points in the Turkish-EU deal".

A number of human rights organisations criticized the agreement. Amnesty International accused the Turkish authorities of forcing dozens of Syrian refugees to return to their country, which had been destroyed by war.

According to information collected from the southern Governorates of Turkey by Amnesty International, the Turkish security forces had gathered about one hundred Syrians every day to send back. Turkey closed their borders for several months in the face of Syrian refugees apart from special cases. This led to the emergence of random camps near the borders between Turkey and the areas controlled by the opposition. Tens of thousands of displaced people gathered in bad living and security conditions, targeted by mortar shells causing civilian casualties.

Human rights organisations attacked the program - Amnesty International said that Turkey had returned Syrians to their country illegally, a charge that Ankara denied.

Reactions to the Agreement by Refugees

Palestinian refugees from Syria criticized the agreement, in particular the return of refugees from Greece to Turkey because Palestinian refugees actually made up a large number who would be affected by the agreement. Hundreds of refugees are still stranded in some of the Greek islands. Thousands are stranded inside Turkey and waiting for their chance to immigrate.

Palestinian activist have said, “If Turkey wants to grant Palestinians citizenship rights, or the same rights as in Europe, such as the right to obtain a travel document, the right to education and others, only then we say to Turkey ‘Thank you and we will stay here’. If the situation is as it is now, where we do not carry any document that allows us to leave and move, or the right of our children to education since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, we say to Turkey very clearly, let us leave to a country that gives us our rights as human beings» .

One refugee said, “In the case of Turkey’s acceptance of any Palestinian, EU returns him back in accordance with this agreement. Then any Palestinian has the right to question the Turkish Government in front of the international human rights organisations because no one in this world can deprive the Palestinian refugee, who lives in Diaspora, from his legal status, he is stateless and without rights»

Refugee Arrivals Despite the Agreement

Migration from Turkey to the Greek islands was curbed but refugees continued to cross the Aegean Sea toward the Greek islands, despite Turkey’s agreement, and hundreds of migrants plus dozens of boats reached the Greek islands.

According to the Migration Policy Coordinators within the Greek government, these arrival were subject to new system, and would be sent back to Turkey, including Syrian asylum seekers.



Map from <http://www.ibtimes.com/refugees-libya-europe-human-smuggling-military-solution-could-increase-death-toll-2100580> Times.

ALTERNATIVE IMMIGRATION ROUTES TO EUROPE

A Mexican newspaper, *Informador*⁽¹⁶⁾ claimed that refugees commonly use the route between Libya and Italy. The newspaper quoted Fabrice Leggeri - Head of Frontex, a European agency for the protection of external borders. He said, "This road has become busier now more than ever", and added: "If the West African immigration flows towards Libya remained in this way, it expects the arrival of 300,000 people wanting to reach Europe."

Libya is the primary country of departure now for those wanting to reach Europe, since the Turkish-EU agreement. Migrant smuggling has been activated despite the EU tightening of border control along the coast. Hundreds of boats were embarked from Libya, and thousands of refugees arrived in Italy but at the same time, dozens of them drowned.

The last documented incident at the time of writing this report was on 1 July 2016, where 384 people arrived at the Italian Catania port on an Italian battleship. They found ten bodies after the boat sank 20 miles from the Libyan coast. 107 people were rescued, according to a humanitarian worker, Nawal Al Soufi. Soufi confirmed that, days before the drownings, more than a thousand people trying to migrate to Europe by the 'death boats', were detained by Libyan authorities.

On 26 June 2016, the Italian authorities rescued more than 1,400 people, and the Italian Navy rescued 5,000 people on 23 and 24 June 2016.

French Newspaper, *Slight*, published a report on the illegal immigration towards Europe, and presented some details about the dangerous journeys from interviews with some of the smugglers.

The newspaper report stated that the covert journeys between Libya and Italy have become easy to discover via social media. This has prompted many to investigate them on Facebook.

The newspaper reported that during the night on 18 April 2016, a boat carrying migrants from Libya drowned off the coast of Italy, leading to the death of more than 900 people. Prior to the tragedy, the European Union decided to double the budget of the *Trenton* operation, which is a joint EU

(16) <http://www.informador.com.mx/internacional/2016/669239/6/la-ruta-libia-italia-es-la-mas-empleada-por-los-refugiados.htm>

plan to help Italy cope with the influx of immigrants to its shores.

It also added that, the smugglers, who it spoke to under the fake name of Odelon Tandu, are active in Libya's capital, Tripoli, and focus on the journeys by sea rather than the intrepid journeys some have taken through various African countries in order to reach Libya. These journeys are fraught with risks including of kidnapping, detention, rape and torture.

Fabrice Lgair also said, according to Informadore, that Egypt has become a place of departure for boats heading to Europe and stressed that what was dangerous about this was that the boats take up to ten days to reach their destination. He pointed out that the European Commission's intention to expand legal migration pathways was to ease pressure on the external borders of the Schengen area. He said that this initiative is not only to protect migrants, but also to detect the entry of terrorists and criminals amongst the free movement that takes place in Europe.

STRANDED EN ROUTE

Traveling to Europe was not the easy feat many thought it would be. Some refugees arrived without too much difficulty but some stumbled, died, were imprisoned, and lost their way.

Greece

On 7 January 2016, Sanaa Hussien Hazza, and her children - Oday, Qusay, and Lama Helal - from Khan Al Sheih Camp in Damascus Suburb, drowned on their way to Sweden.

On 3 March 2016, Palestinian Syrians who fled to Greece, delivered a letter to humanitarian and international organisations calling for their right of asylum to Europe and that safer routes should be allowed to western and southern countries in the EU. The letter was shared widely on social media. Within it refugees rejected the international agreement stating that refugees should return to their homeland, saying it was an invalid and illegal agreement. It went on to say that the Turkey – Europe agreement was incompatible with human rights, and essentially a punishment for refugees. It also argued that there should be an alternative solution for them. Palestinian refugees accused the EU of allowing their plight to continue, even after they have escaped conflict.

On 24 May 2016, Greek authorities started to evacuate the refugee camp in Idomeni, located on the borders with Macedonia. It served to relocate them in neighbouring camps and refuges. At least 200 Policemen supported by 20 vehicles were involved in the evacuation. Thousands of refugees including Palestinian Syrians and Syrian refugees arrived at the camp on the border to Macedonia, which were originally closed at the beginning of March because of Europe – Turkey agreement. They placed thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, who fled from Syria, in renewed suffering, and many were stranded on the Macedonian border to Greece because ground borders were also closed. The navy also tightened procedures in the Aegean Sea to prevent the arrival of new migrants to the Greek islands.

Libya

On 26 May 2016, the Italian Navy declared that a boat carrying 500 refugees, including Palestinian and Syrian refugees, had drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while heading to Italy from Libya.

Macedonia

On 27 February 2016, displaced Palestinian Syrian families, who were stranded in Macedonia, appealed to international, and human rights organisations and the PLO to put pressure on the Macedonian government to help them in their journey to Europe. They also called for better living conditions. A refugee who described the situation said, “there is no refuge, and we suffer from miserable living conditions, which has caused a state of depression and frustration among the refugees.”

On 13 April 2016, groups of dozens of refugees tried to get through the Greek-Macedonian borders, but the Macedonian border guards stopped them with tear gas and sound bombs, which resulted in many fainting.

11,000 refugees of different nationalities are still stranded in Greece.

On 17 April 2016, Palestinian Syrian refugees became stranded on the Macedonian-Greek border, demanding that international, humanitarian organisations and the PLO place pressure on European governments to receive them in Europe. Some activists and refugees in Greece pointed out that about 160 Palestinian Syrian refugees, who had arrived and were stranded prior to the Turkey EU agreement, including 104 from the Yarmouk Camp, five from Al Nairab camp, 33 from Der’aa, Al Muzareeb and Jalen, 10 from Handarat and eight from Al Aedin camp in Homs – these numbers included 57 children.

On 20 April 2016, dozens of Palestinians Syrian families, stranded on the Macedonian-Greek borders, renewed their appeal through AGPS to all relief, and human rights organisations, for urgent actions to put an end to their suffering, as they are living in tents in the forests without any assistance. One stranded refugee confirmed that children’s lives were in danger because of snakes and scorpions.

They also appealed to the UN and human rights organisations, to put an end to their suffering and allow them to reach their destinations. Having fled ongoing war in Syria looking for safety, they found themselves as prisoners in tents in miserable living conditions.

Germany

On 1 May 2016, Palestinian refugee Feras Dawod, who had been infected with measles inhibiting his sight, appealed to human rights and humanitarian organisations to carry out an urgent action so he could have access to medication in Germany. He claimed that there was an urgent need for the treatment, confirming that any delay would minimise the success of the operation.

On 24 June 2016, the Palestinians Syrian families of Habayeb and Rashdan called for support to stop their deportation from Germany to Spain.

The family are made up of the father of whom is Mohamed Habyb, the mother Ranya Rashdan, and the children Khaled, 11 years-old, Jodi, 8 years-old and Zayn who is 4 years-old. The father suffered from a heat condition, for which he was receiving medication in a German hospital.

The family said, “We cannot live in peace and relief, we are not sure if the next morning there would be a fight here in Germany”. The family also said they feared that they would be deported to Spain because of the rules of the Dublin agreement in Europe. The Dublin agreement forces refugees to apply for asylum in the first safe country they reach.

Egypt

On 19 March 2016, a year and a half of detention, the families of Fadi Sharef Hwanra and Alaa Abd Wahab Dergham families, appealed through AGPS, human rights and humanitarian organisations, the UN and the Palestinian Embassy to work to free both of them from the Egyptian prison (Qnater).

Alaa’s father told an AGPS correspondent that Alaa and Fadi travelled from Syria to Egypt on an official visa on Thursday 10 July 2014. They then tried to travel to Europe illegally by sea, but failed. He said that the Egyptian Navy caught them with passengers and then issued a deportation order within 15 days. As they are Palestinian refugees from Syria, other countries refused to provide them with a visa, and the Egyptian authorities kept them in Shobrakhet prison waiting for a viable solution from the UN. Alaa’s father claimed that he had lost any faith in the UN after spending 40 days in detention, and after the other prisoners were released. On 14 February 2016, both were transported to a prison in Alismalya. Alaa’s father added that “the Egyptian security transported them to Alareh prison on 11 March 2015, and tried to deport them to the Gaza Strip. However, an official in

UNRWA in Jordan, as well as the PLO, refused to receive them in Gaza. They were then transported to Alqntra Prison in Cairo on 24 August 2015, and are still detained there.

On the role of the Palestinian Embassy, Alaa's father said that they could not arrange for their transfer to Europe, but provides them with medication and money. Lawyer, Fersa Haj Yehya, said that both Alaa and Fadi remain in miserable conditions, which they do so because of the fact they are Palestinian. Neither of them had any choice but to leave Syria.

The lawyer confirmed that they had been detained for 19 months without charge or sentencing. The only accusation has been of illegal immigration, which is not a crime in Egypt. The lawyer called for the Egyptian authorities to free both of the Palestinian youths, as they were victims of war like other Syrian refugees.

On 22 May 2016, Egyptian authorities transported them from Alqntra prison in Cairo, to another Egyptian Prison - one made especially for the deportation of detainees to Gaza. They were freed, however after receiving a visa to Sudan.

On 18 May 2016, Egyptian authorities prevented Palestinian Syrian Businessman Ghassan Alhassan, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Union for professional workers in construction, from entering its territories in order to participate in the conference that was called for by the General Union of Egyptian Workers because he has a Palestinian Syrian ID card.

Malaysia

On 23 June 2016, Palestinian Syrian, Ahmed Hnawi, from Yarmouk Camp, who was stranded at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Malaysia, appealed to the PLO, human rights organisations and the UN, to assist in freeing him from the prison at KLIA. After four days of detention, Alhenawi pleaded for an alternative solution to deportation, which he believes would be risky to his life.

MOBILISATION IN EUROPE TO SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES OF SYRIA

In the first half of 2016, a number of activities took place in order to support and highlight the plight of Palestinian-Syrians. For instance, the collection of data, discussions and short films within international forums.

Roundtable on Palestinian refugees in Syria in the British Parliament

On 21 March 2016, the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) in London, in partnership with the Friends of Palestine in the Scottish National Party (SNP), organised a discussion in the British Parliament about the Palestinian-Syrian refugees after the fifth year of the Syrian conflict. Tommy Shephard MP from the SNP chaired the meeting, attended by seven other members of the SNP and Baroness Jenny Tong. The panel included Catherine Ramsey, a researcher at Amnesty International, Anna Irfan, a researcher and former project coordinator from Medical Aid for Palestine, Magda Kandil, a researcher from Poland, and Sameh Habeeb, the Head of Media and Communications at PRC. The meeting coincided with another meeting being held by the PRC at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, where PRC made an oral statement on the deteriorating situation of Palestinians in Syria.

Letter to the Donors Conference on Syria in London

On 4 February 2016, PRC and AGPS in London sent a memorandum to the presidency of the donors' conference in London, which described how Palestinian refugees living inside Syria had been displaced. They called for funding to be allocated for this issue.

The letter described the humanitarian conditions as well as the state of human rights for Palestinian Syrians who are further displaced to Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Statistical data was provided to portray the displacement, which occurred specifically after the war. Prime Minister David Cameron opened the conference, which was held in London with in front of 70 global leaders, and UN and EU representatives.

Human Rights Council, Geneva

On 17 June 2016, AGPS in collaboration with PRC, organised a seminar on the Human Rights Council's actions (32) in Geneva. Ahmed Hussein, the AGPS coordinator, Nwras Ali, a Palestinian activist, and Pietro Stefanini, a PRC researcher, discussed the plight of Palestinians from Syria, including the issue of all human rights violations, detentions, displacement, and abhorrent living conditions. They shed light on the various ways that Palestinian Syrians have tried to escape the ongoing war, having been forced to escape via the 'death boats' for instance, as well as the fact that they remain stateless.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted a written statement delivered by the PRC in London, containing details related to over 3,235 Palestinian victims based on AGPS statistics. The statement also included information on the siege of Yarmouk refugee camp, the humanitarian situation in other Palestinian refugee camps and on the 445 Palestinian prisoners and victims of torture.

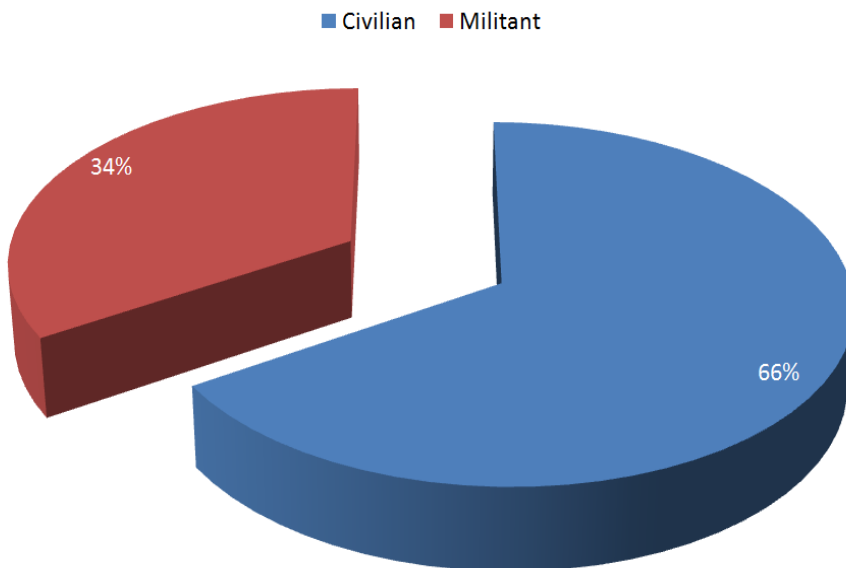
VICTIMS AND DETAINEES

AGPS documented a total of 3,247 Palestinian deaths both inside and outside of Syria due to the conflict – including from attempts to reach Europe or at new destinations, since the start of the conflict and until the end of the reporting period of June 2016.

Casualties during the first half of 2016

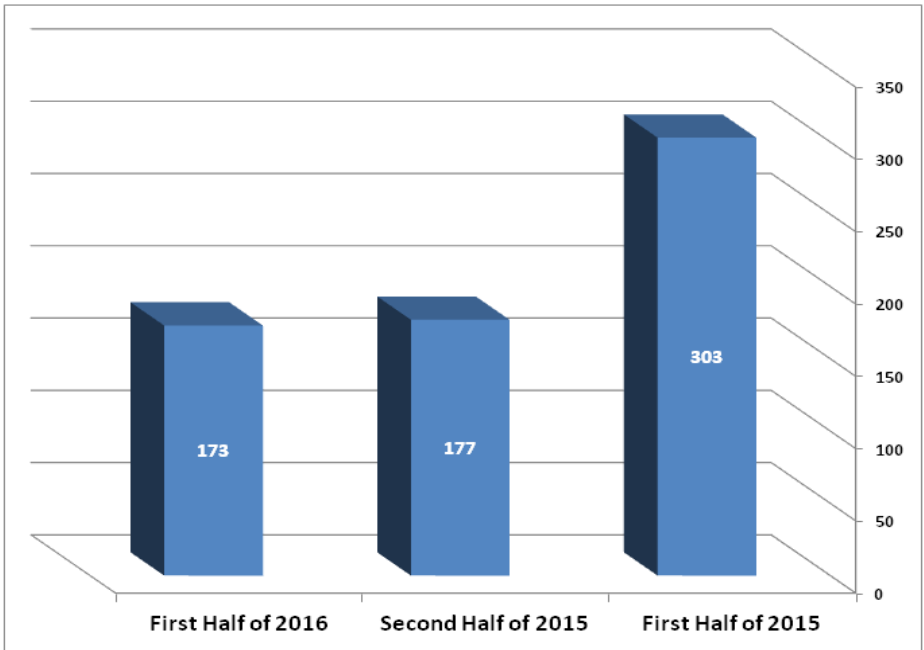
Palestinian blood is still being spilt in camps and Syrian cities. During the first six months of 2016, 173 Palestinian refugees died including 115 civilians and 58 Palestinian combatants fighting alongside the regime and opposition.

Diagram showing the percentage of civilian and combatant deaths of Palestinian refugees from January 2016 until the end of June 2016



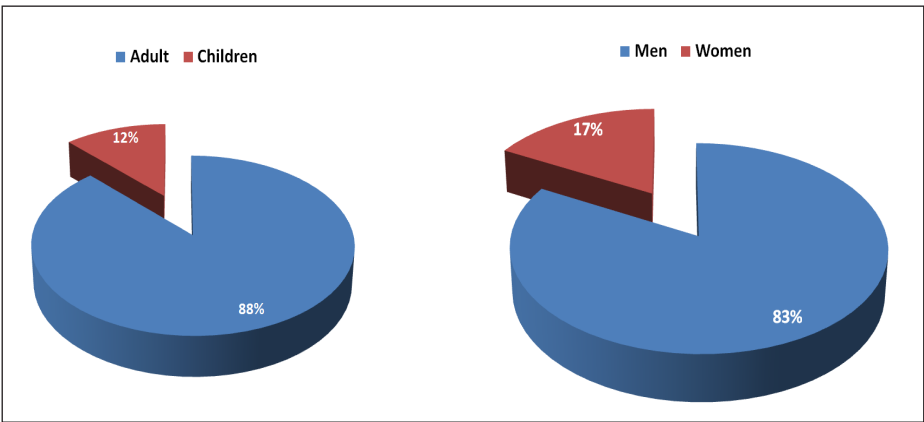
In comparison to the previous year, there was a sharp decline in deaths during the current reporting period. The first half of 2015 saw 303 Palestinian refugees killed, while there were 177 recorded deaths during the second half of 2015.

Diagram Showing Palestinian deaths in Syria over time



Distribution of victims according to gender and age

Of those who died, 23 were female and 144 male. 19 were also children.



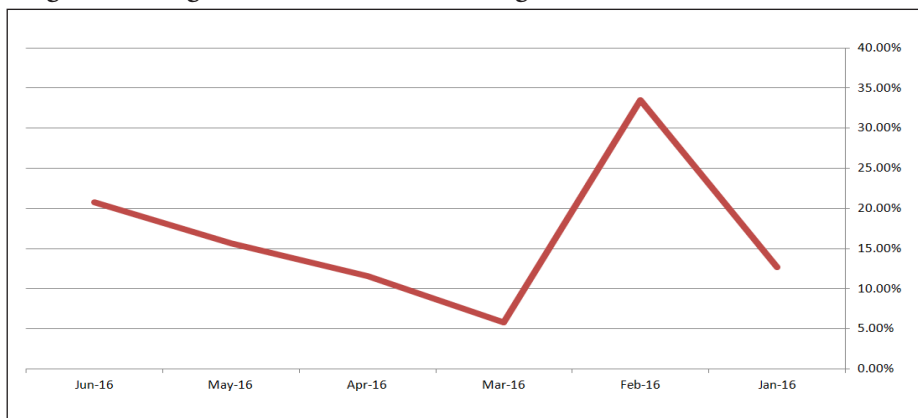
Distribution of victims according to time

Although the number of deaths among Palestinian refugees from Syria have declined overall, February 2016 saw the most recorded number of deaths, with 58 refugees killed in different areas in Syria. 36 were killed in June and most had died in Al Sayeda Zainab Camp.

Victims by month during the first half of 2016

2016	Number	Percentage %
January	22	12.72
February	58	33.53
March	10	5.78
April	20	11.56
May	27	15.61
June	36	20.81
Total	173	100.00

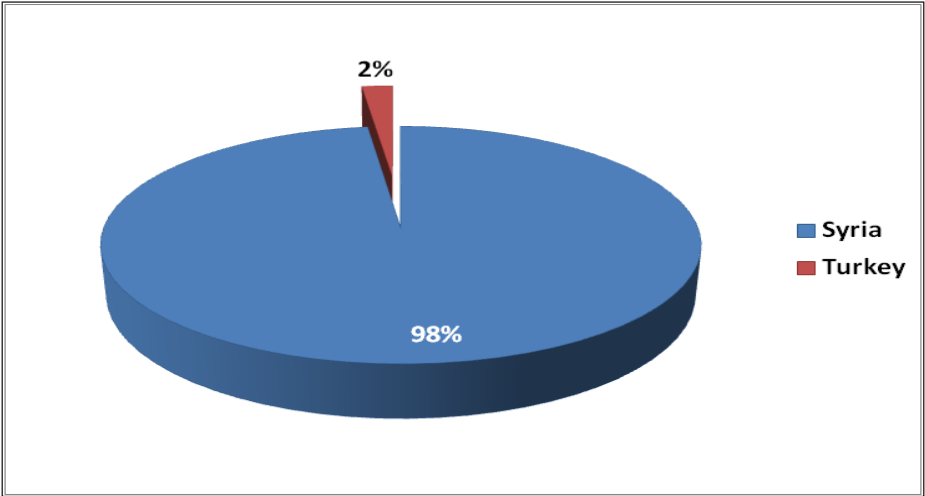
Diagram showing an overview of victims during the first half of 2016



Spatial distribution of victims

AGPS researchers documented 173 victims among Palestinian refugees from Syria between January and the end of June 2016. 169 died inside camps and cities within Syria and four refugees died in Turkey.

Diagram showing the spatial distribution of victims inside and outside Syria during the first half of 2016



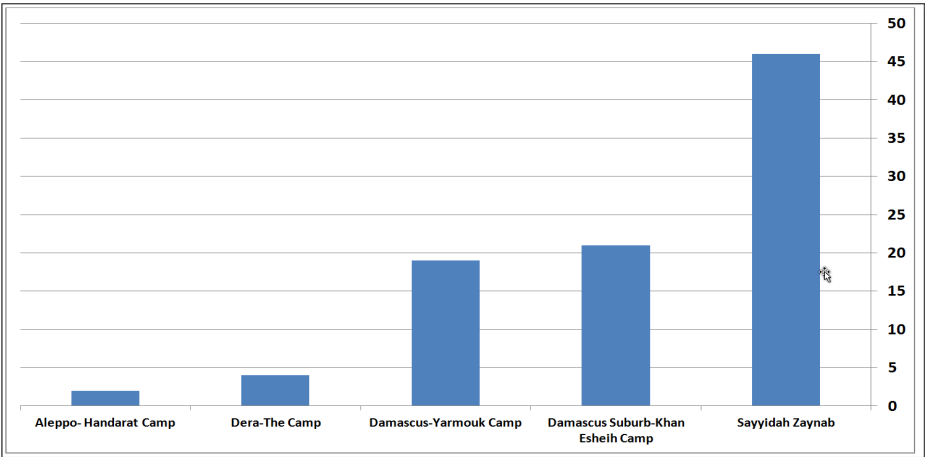
Distribution of victims across the main camps and governorates in Syria

During the first half of 2016, 92 refugees died. 46 in Sayyidah Zainab camp dies after car explosions, 21 died in Khan EAl Sheih from Russian and Syrian airstrikes. 19 died in Yarmouk Camp while clashes between ISIS and al Nusra took place. Four also died in Der’aa and Handarat camps and two in Aleppo.

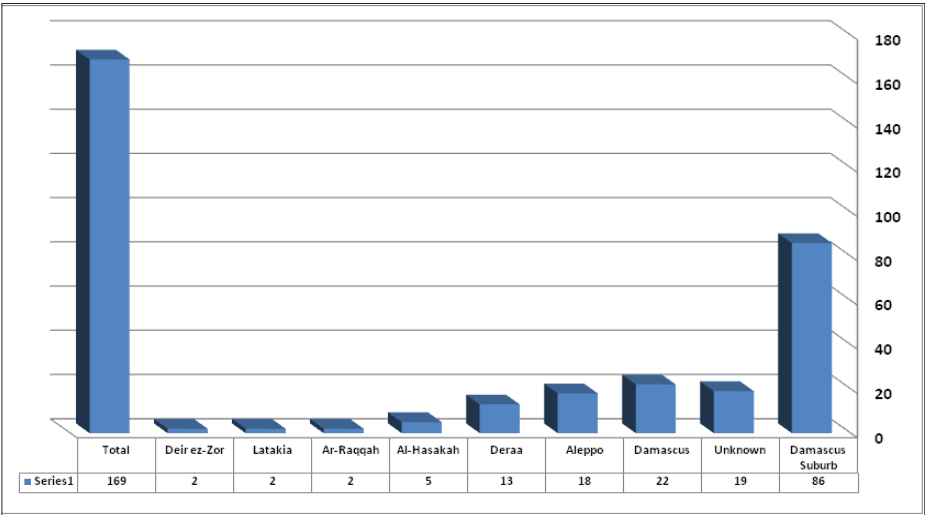
Chart showing the distribution of victims across Palestinian Camps in Syria during the first half of 2016

Death Place	Number
Sayyidah Zainab Area	46
Damascus Suburb- Khan Al Sheih Camp	21
Damascus- Yarmouk Camp	19
Der’aa- Camp	4
Aleppo- Handarat Camp	2
Total	92

Diagram showing the distribution of victims across Palestinian Camps during the first half of 2016



Distribution of victims across the main governorates



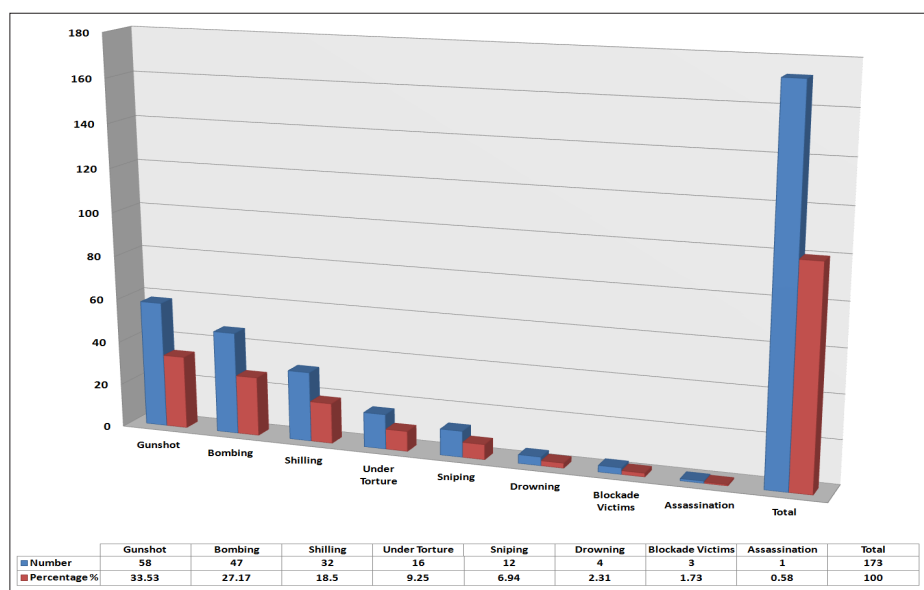
Distribution of victims by cause of death

173 Palestinians died during first half of 2016, including 58 refugees who died from injuries sustained after violent clashes. 47 refugees died in Sayyidah Zaynab bombings, 32 were killed during shellings, 16 were tortured to death inside regular army prisons, and three Palestinian refugees died in the Yarmouk Camp because of its continuing blockade.

A Table Shows the Distribution of victims Based on the Cause of Death in the First Half of 2016

Manner of Death	Number	Percentage %
Gunshot	58	33.53
Bombing	47	27.17
Shilling	32	18.50
Under Torture	16	9.25
Sniping	12	6.94
Drowning	4	2.31
Blockade Victims	3	1.73
Assassination	1	0.58
Total	173	100.00

Diagram showing the distribution of victims based on cause of death during the first half of 2016



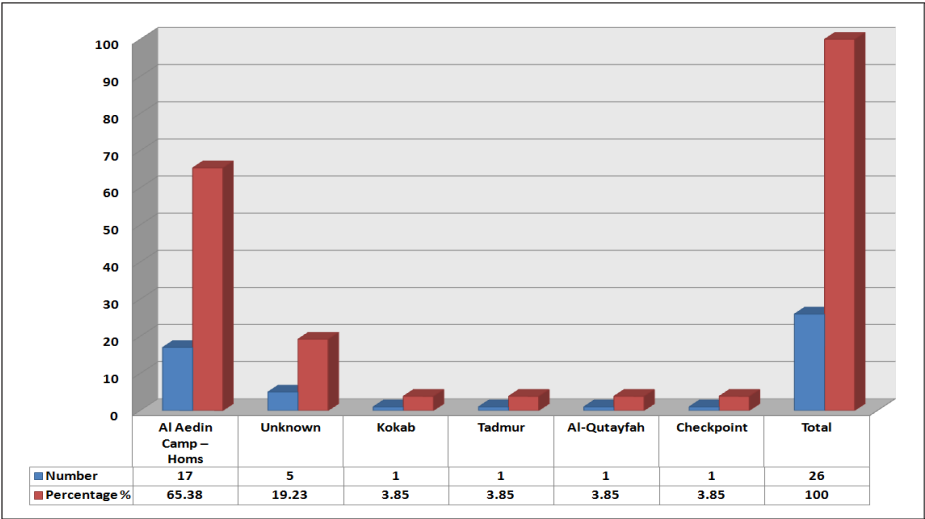
Detention, release and death from torture

Detention of Palestinian refugees from Syria continued. AGPS researchers documented the detention of 26 refugees in different areas of Syria during the first half of 2016. Homs has the largest number of detainees, where 17 of the detainees were from Al Aedin Camp in Homs, however, seven of them were released after arrest.

Chart showing the places of detention for Palestinian refugees in Syria during the first half of 2016

Place of Detention	Number	Percentage %
Al Aedin Camp – Homs	17	65.38
Unknown	5	19.23
Kokab	1	3.85
Tadmur	1	3.85
Al-Qutayfah	1	3.85
Checkpoint	1	3.85
Total	26	100.00

Diagram showing the places of detention of Palestinian Refugees in Syria during the first half of 2016



List of Detainees Names during the first half of 2016

No.	Name	Date of Detention	Place
1	Ibrahimn Adel Kayed	6/3/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
2	Ibrahim Majd Al Asadi	6/29/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
3	Ayman Marwan Al Tuba	4/6/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
4	Bara' Zuhir Abu Edris	5/5/2016	Tadmour
5	Bashar Ibrahim Fares	1/6/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
6	Khalid Mohammed Mahmoud Edris, 16 years	6/20/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
7	Zeyad Saleem Al Shaer, 70 years	2/13/2016	Unknown
8	Zeyad Awwad ,43 years	5/4/2016	Unknown
9	Derar Asad Hadeed	6/29/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
10	Qassim Jaryan	4/29/2016	Unknown
11	Mazen Abu Dhees	1/24/2016	Unknown
12	Mohammed Jameel Mattar	2/3/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
13	Mohammed Musa Shatara	6/21/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
14	Mahmoud Khalid Mahmoud Shatara	6/20/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
15	Mahmoud Farouq Mey'ari	2/10/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
16	Maryem Rashdan	4/1/2016	Kokab-Damascus Suburb
17	Mo'taz Al Khatib	6/1/2016	Pegio Checkpoint- Damascus Suburb
18	Mo'taz Abbas	6/22/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
19	Hesham Atta Hassoun	6/29/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs

List of detainees names during first half of 2016 and released in the same period

No.	Name	Detention Date	Release Date	Place
1	Ibrahim Al Hajj Abdullah	4/3/2016	4/23/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
2	Amjad Subhi Sarhan	1/28/2016	2/13/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
3	Emad Ahmed Shahin	6/4/2016	6/30/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
4	Firas Al Ramly	2/3/2016	2/21/2016	Al Qatefa
5	Fahd hayatla	1/25/2016	6/11/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
6	Nour Al Din Al Qudsi	4/2/2016	4/23/2016	Al Aedin Camp -Homs
7	Waseem Jum'aa	4/29/2016	5/3/2016	Khan Danoun Camp

On the other hand, 28 Palestinian refugees were released, who were arrested due to various reasons before the Syrian crises.

List of Palestinian refugee detainees, released during the first half of 2016

No.	Name	Release Date	Place
1	Ayman Murad	1/21/2016	Homs Camp
2	Jamal Ahmed Musa	6/20/2016	Aleppo
3	Husain Abu Mohammed	6/30/2016	Qudseia - Damascus Suburb
4	Hekmat Ahmed Hasan	5/23/2016	Khan Al Sheih Camp
5	Raed Al Shabi	5/28/2016	Syria
6	Saed Farouq Zaidan	2/2/2016	Homs Camp
7	Subhi Awad	1/27/2016	Khan Al Sheih Camp
8	Sabreyya Yousif	5/15/2016	Khan Al Sheih Camp
9	Aida Saleh Awad	4/13/2016	Khan Al Sheih Camp
10	Obada Kanani	5/27/2016	Der'aa Camp - Der'aa
11	Ali Shehda Al Shabi	5/22/2016	Homs Camp
12	Ali Qassim	2/2/2016	Al Muzareeb - Der'aa
13	Omar Mohammed Ismile Omar	3/4/2016	Homs Camp
14	Omar Mohammed Al Omor	2/19/2016	Homs Camp
15	Ghalib Qassim	2/17/2016	Syria
16	Maher Mustafa Mahmoud	1/27/2016	Homs
17	Mohammed Khalid Mattar	3/3/2016	Homs Camp
18	Mohammed Khair Musa Deyyab	6/6/2016	Jadeedat Artouz - Damascus Suburb
19	Mohammed Saleem Al Ter'ati	2/6/2016	Der'aa Camp - Der'aa
20	Mohammed Abd Abu Al Hasan	5/28/2016	Homs
21	Mohammed Mawed	6/29/2016	Yarmouk Camp
22	Marwan Al As'ad	2/24/2016	Hama Camp
23	Mosab Al Mawed	2/17/2016	Syria
24	Mo'taz Al Khatib	6/5/2016	Pego Checkpoint - Damascus Suburb
25	Hisham Ali Shanati	2/3/2016	Al Nairab Camp
26	Wael Khalil Basyouni	2/2/2016	Homs Camp
27	Yahya Saleem Al Tur'ati	2/6/2016	Der'aa Camp - Der'aa
28	Yayya Foad Abbas	5/23/2016	Homs Camp

More enforced disappearance cases were discovered during the reporting period, when their death was announced through the Syrian Security departments or indirectly through the testimonies of released prisoners who had lived with the detainee until their death.

List of the Torture Victims' Names in the Syrian Prisons Announced in the First Half of 2016

No.	Name	Death Reported Date	Address	Details
1	Mohamed Ihssan Sboh	1/1/2016	Unknow	He was tortured to death.
2	Ahmed Mohamed Alkhateb	1/5/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He is from the Yarmouk Camp. He was tortured to death by the Regular Army after two years of detention
3	Amar Jarbo (32 years old)	1/5/2016	Aleppo	He is from Aleppo. He was tortured to death by the Regular Army after a year and half of detention.
4	Mohamed Mansor Alshafi	1/6/2016	Damascus Suburb-Hosseinieh Camp	He is from the Palestinian Refugee Camp (Hosseinieh) in Damascus suburb, and his brother was detained by checkpoint personnel while going to bury their sister in Al Hosseinieh cemetery. He was tortured to death by the Regular Army, while his brother's fate is still unknown.
5	Kamal Mohamed Abass	2/17/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He is from the Yarmouk Camp-Alreja and a resident of Hittin village in the occupied Palestinian territories. He was tortured to death by the Regular Army.
6	Mohamed Nasser Shehab	2/26/2016	Damascus-Khan Esheih Camp	He is from Khan Al Sheih camp, he was tortured to death by the Regular Army.
7	Fares Jkhlab	2/29/2016	Latikia- Alraml Camp	He is from Alraml Camp. After about five years of detention, he was tortured to death by the Regular Army.
8	Odai Qadora	3/7/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He is from Yarmouk Camp and a volunteer at Charity Commission for Relief of Palestinian People, he was tortured to death by the Regular Army.

9	Hazem Abo Ajaj	3/30/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He was tortured to death after three years of detention.
10	Ibrahim Mahmod Mohamed	4/3/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He is from Yarmouk Camp in Damascus. He was tortured to death after about three years of detention.
11	Ahmed Abo Shala	5/14/2016	Dera'a-Dera'a Camp	
12	Ashraf Syah Aldali	5/28/2016	Damascus Suburb-Khan Eshieh Camp	He is from Der'aa Camp, he was tortured to death by the Regular Army.
13	Raed Alkhateb	6/4/2016	Damascus-Damr	He is from Khan Al Sheih camp, he was detained at Darosha checkpoint near the camp. He was tortured to death after one year of detention by the Regular Army. He is a football player at Alwehda club (Syrian Club)
14	Amed Alshehabi	6/4/2016	Damascus-Yarmouk Camp	He is from Damr village in Damascus. He was tortured to death by the Regular Army.
15	Mahmod Abdallah Yousef Dyab	6/5/2016	Homs-Camp	He is from Al Aedin camp in Hama. He was tortured to death after three years of detention by the Regular Army, detained when he was only 13 years old
16	Ahmed Khaled Hawash	6/7/2016	Aleppo-Handarat Camp	He is from Handarat camp in Aleppo, and a fighter in the Palestinian Liberation Army, he was tortured to death after three years of detention in Msyaf city by the Regular Army.

CONCLUSION

All information contained in this report has been collected field studies by AGPS between January and June 2016. This report was preceded by various other reports and has refrained from trying to analyse or assign blame to either side of the conflict. This report is for the sole purpose of relaying accurate and objective facts so that a true picture becomes clear.

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