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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Deputy U.S. Representative to UN: Only a Few Hundred Prisoners Released in Syrian Regime Amnesty

- Families Call For Implementation of 2004 Master Plan in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees Call for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance by UNRWA
- Mobile Network Inoperative in AlNeirab Refugee Camp



Latest Developments

Deputy U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Richard Mills has called for further information on the Assad regime's April 30 amnesty decree, saying the regime has only released a few hundred prisoners – a small fraction of those who remain detained by the regime.

This came in remarks at a UN Security Council briefing in New York on the political situation in Syria on June 29.

“We were reminded yesterday of the stark realities of the horror of the Syrian conflict by a number that was released by the UN: 306,887. This is the number of civilians who have been killed since the beginning of the uprising in March 2011 and the end of March 2021”, said Mills.

“It is, of course, more than a sobering statistic for all of us. These people had hopes, they had dreams, they had hobbies, they had families, and they had many, many loved ones, as we just heard. The human scale of the conflict should shock us all and, of course, we all should be compelled to redouble our efforts to find a solution to the crisis”, said the ambassador.

Mills called for enhanced efforts towards the implementation of all aspects of Resolution 2254, including addressing the issue of arbitrarily detained and missing persons.

“We do take note of the Assad regime's April 30 amnesty decree”, said the US diplomat. “But to be clear, to date, the regime has only released a few hundred prisoners – a small fraction of those who remain detained by the regime.”

“We urge the Assad regime to fully, transparently, and effectively implement this decree so that a much larger proportion of detainees can be released. We also urge the regime to coordinate directly with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other NGOs in ensuring these efforts are humane and transparent”, he said.

“The amnesty should not be used to justify or encourage refugee returns before there are real conditions in place that facilitate the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees”, added Mills.



“Safety and security, including concerns over the rule of law, such as the ones we see today, remain major obstacles to any potential returns, and, of course, I think, explain the statistic that the Special Envoy shared with us about the percentage of returnee refugees who want to return”.

Mills further stated that the Assad regime continues to stall the chance for any fruitful dialogue through its intransigence and stressed that the United States looks forward to working collaboratively together with other Security Council members in the coming days to reauthorize and expand the mandate for the UN cross-border humanitarian assistance mechanism into Syria.

Only 14 Palestinian refugees, including four women, have been released from the time the pardon has entered into force in May.

Thousands of Palestinians and Syrians have been jailed on terror charges for peaceful opposition to Assad’s government since the 2011 Arab Spring protests and subsequent war.

Thousands of Syrians were discovered killed under torture when a defector leaked nearly 50,000 photographs in 2014, showing the bodies of some 7,000 detainees mutilated by torture.

Over 1,900 Palestinian refugees are believed to be languishing in Syria’s prisons, many of them have spent nearly a decade in prison while scores of others died under torture behind prison bars.

In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have called on the Syrian authorities to implement the 2004 master plan approved in 2013 regarding damaged buildings.

Civilians and activists have appealed to Damascus Governorate to hand them reconstruction permits in order to help them retrieve their property and bring life back to normal in the ravaged camp.

Over recent years, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, to stand on guard to all attempts to force them to forfeit their houses and property at low prices.

Real estate dealers have reportedly established limited-liability contracting companies to buy real estate from the residents at extremely cheap prices. Civilians who have lost their property



ownership documents have particularly come under simmering pressure.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In the meantime, activists have called on UNRWA to deliver much-needed cash aid to Palestinian refugees in Syria before the holy Eid of Sacrifice.

The activists also called on UNRWA to transfer cash grants of no less than 50 USD every month rather than every three months.

UNRWA provides assistance to over 438,000 registered Palestinian refugees in Syria. Some 13,500 others remain in hard-to-reach or inaccessible zones in northern Syria.

The assistance includes cash and in-kind items. Throughout the conflict, the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in/from Syria have been struggling for survival.

UNRWA data indicates that over half of the Palestine refugees in the country have been displaced at least once because of the brutal conflict that ensued, including 200,000 who have sought safety in neighbouring countries, mainly Lebanon and Jordan, and beyond;

Over 80% of PRS live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income. 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees sheltered AlNeirab Camp, in the northern Syria province of Aleppo, said the telecommunications network has gone out of operation.

The situation has been exacerbated by the chronic power blackout. The residents called on the concerned authorities to install new batteries to operate network towers.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee



camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.