



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

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## التقرير اليومي

### الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Syrian Plan to Rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp Sparks further Controversy"

- Palestinian Refugees Raise Concern over Security Turmoil in Deraa
- Palestinian Student Ramez Hamdan Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime
- Palestinian Director Mohamed Khamis Awarded for His Film "Exit Visa"
- Vigils Held Outside of Danish Parliament over Deportation Orders

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## Latest Developments

Questions have been raised about the controversial master plan issued by Damascus Governorate to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

This came at a seminar held by the General Company for Engineering Studies on 25/5/2021, tackling the company's experience of urban planning in Yarmouk Camp.

A lecture was delivered by engineer Amani AlHamad in the presence of Iranian businessmen, as part of the event which falls in line with Syria's Specialized Exhibitions.

Speakers raised concerns about the implications of the revival of the master plan, which has been widely condemned by Palestinian refugee community and political factions in the war-torn country.

A recent report issued by AGPS under the title "Yarmouk Camp: What's Behind the New Reconstruction Plan" has spotlighted the projected impact of the master plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 06, 2020 to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp.

The report warns that the new plan violates the residents' ownership rights and swells up over 50% of old buildings and property owned by civilians. No compensations, except for small shares, are, however, proposed in the plan.

The reconstruction plan will also result in a removal of the camp's demographic character. No more than 40% of the residents will be



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allowed to return to their homes in mildly damaged areas. Several families will not be able to prove property ownership due to such laws and regulations as Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment. The situation is even more complicated for those who lost their documents in the warfare as well as those currently sheltered abroad.

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new reconstruction plan for Yarmouk Camp, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Activists said the new plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

It is believed that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

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 April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian



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population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In another development, tension has been running high in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees after Syrian security forces closed off access roads to and around the area.

At the same time, an explosive device went off on Sunday, resulting in material damage.

Recently, Syrian security forces abruptly closed off the access road to Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees with sand barriers. Vehicles and civilians have been denied access out of and into the area.

The Syrian forces also closed off the main thoroughfare between Deraa city and Yarmouk Camp.

An AGPS reporter said sounds of heavy gunshooting have been detected in Deraa camp.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Ramez Hamdan has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for over seven years.





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Ramez, born in 1992, was arrested at the Faculty of Pharmacy at Damascus University on December 13, 2013.

In the meantime, Palestinian director Mohammed Khamis was granted the World Distribution Award as the best director for his film “Exit Visa”, a new feature film that depicts the suffering of the Palestinian family and their lives under the shadow of war and its devastation.

The film is directed by Mohammed Khamis, written by Enas Al-Hujjah and produced by Malik Rajab. The film deals with the story of a Palestinian family living in the besieged Gaza Strip and they are exposed to several situations in which they reflect their reality of living.

The film depicts the impact of deprivation, including deprivation from the right to education and happy childhood.

Mohammed fled Syria’s Khan Eshieh refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, to the Lebanese city of Baalbek, before he headed for Egypt in 2013. He reached Sweden via Italy after he boarded the so-called Europe-bound “death boats”.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee



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sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In another development, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Danish parliament in Copenhagen to protest against the government's plans to repatriate refugees who come from Syria around the capital Damascus.

Last week, thousands of protesters also turned up for demonstrations and protests in 25 cities across Denmark to say no to the Danish government's withdrawal of residence permits for Syrian refugees.

Activists and organizations joined forces in a joint protest against the Danish government's plans for returns of Syrian refugees. Haifaa Awad, Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke, Dansk Flygtningehjælp Ungdom and Amnesty International Denmark convened demonstrations across the country.

The message is clear: The Danish government should immediately stop plans to withdraw Syrian residence permits.

Hundreds of Syrian refugees, including children, have been told by the Danish Immigration Service to return to Syria, assessing that Damascus and the surrounding areas are safe to return to. At least 39 Syrians have received their final assessment in the Refugee Board - and are now in a deportation position.



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But Syria is far from being a safe country. Although military hostilities have diminished in most of the country, Syrian citizens continue to risk persecution and human rights abuses - including in Damascus and the surrounding area.