

## التقرير اليومي الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

SATURDAY, 2NDOF JULY 2016, NO.: 1338

## "Poisoning Spread in Yarmouk and South Damascus due to the Polluted Water"



- The Syrian Security Arrests Three Refugees and Releases another One from Al Aedein Camp in Homs
- Deteriorated Economic Crises Suffered by the Displaced Palestinian Families in Damascus Suburb
- Work and Residencies are the Most Prominent Obstacles
  Faced by the Palestinians of Syria in Egypt

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### **Recent Updates**

Activists in the besieged areas south of Damascus reported that many cases of poisoning and enteralgia were diagnosed among the residents in the besieged areas, especially children at the Yarmouk camp and Babila due to the pollution of water lines "Al Fija" which provides those areas with drinking water.

A resident of Babila managed to create water filters for water purification of lime and impurities and sell it with low prices, within simple trials of water purification in the besieged areas. This step came after his children were poisoned due to the Fiha polluted water that is provided from the Yarmouk camp.



Em Ashraf, one of the besieged people at Babila, said "We suffered a lot from the polluted water and from not knowing its source. The water resulted in many diseases such as enteritis, Jaundice, and hepatitis."

"We were forced to buy filtered water, and to reduce the use of it. Our conditions are bad, since we buy the bottle of water by 100SYP, 20 Cent, and it is unavailable most days," she added.

Mrs. Ruqaya Alsalem, a resident in the besieged Yarmouk camp, said that the problems in the south of the capital, "not limited to drinking water contamination, but beyond that the economic blockade which is straining the civilians, rather than the food blockade that has been left recently."

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Activists believe that the water problems before and after the siege has not changed, despite the claim of the Syrian regime that they connect Fija line for drinking water, and because families have to buy filtered water with low price.

It is noteworthy that the Syrian army and security forces had stopped feeding the Yarmouk refugee camp across the water network of neighboring areas on 9 September 2014, which made the relief organizations that were operating inside the camp to work on repair and operate some artesian wells.

ISIS and Nusra have exacerbated the suffering of Yarmouk people after taking control of the camp in the beginning of April 2014. In addition, they prevented the camp's residents of being provided with water following violent clashes between them in 7 April 2016. Preventing water resulted in deterioration of living conditions, where dozens of families became unable to leave hot places to safer areas, as they were prevented - as the rest of the besieged people – of having water from artesian wells.

The AGPS correspondent reported that the Syrian security arrested two Palestinian refugees from Al Aedein camp in Homs and released another refugee two or three days ago. Mukhtar of Al Aedein camp, Darar Asaad Hadeid-Abu Asaad, was also arrested. He is in his fifties and originally from Safad city in Palestine.

The refugee, Ibrahim Majdi Alasadi, in his thirties, and originally from Amqa village in Palestine, and the refugee, Hisham Ata Hasoun, in his forties and originally from Ein Al Zaytoun village in Palestine were also arrested.

The arrest of the three refugees resulted from the conflict among the security branches and those who are nominated for the title of Mukhtar. The Syrian security released the Palestinian young man, Imad Ahmed Shaheen-Abu Shaheen after being detained for more than 20 days.

It is noteworthy that residents of Al Aedein camp in Homs are suffering from large harassments practiced by members of the Syrian security detachment, such as arrest and inspection campaigns from now and then. They also search and check the identities of passers-by and impose royalties. These practices forced many

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people to migrate out of the country, noting that the AGPS documented 186 Palestinians from Al Aedein camp who are detained in the Syrian regime's prisons.

Furthermore, hundreds of Palestinian families, who were displaced from their camps because of the shelling and the siege to Al Dukhaneya, Al Kabas, and Dwelaa areas east of the capital Damascus, are suffering worsening economic crisis because of the spread of unemployment among them. They also cannot find place to restore, especially in light of the dramatic rise of houses' rents in addition to the many conditions imposed by homeowners in those house.

Residents demanded UNRWA, PLO, and Palestinian factions to shoulder their responsibilities towards them, and to work to bring them back to their camps, such as Husseneia, Sbeina, and Yarmouk camps.



It is noteworthy that a large number of Palestinian families have been forced to displace again after the storming of opposition fighters into Al Dukhaneya area and impose control of the nearby neighborhoods such as Jaramana, Ein Tarma, and Al Kabas.

The remaining Palestinian Syrian refugees in Egypt are suffering of unclear legal status, coincided with political and security tensions. The Egyptian security refuses to grant the Palestinian Syrian refugees any residencies despite they meet all formal conditions for the issuance of those residencies. According to many refugees to our correspondent, the Egyptian security always respond that "security

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clearances have not confirmed yet," while their suffering increased due to the high prices in recent months.

Job opportunities are almost non exist in Egypt due to the poor conditions inside Egypt and the ongoing economic deterioration. Almost 6000 Palestinian Syrian refugees resorted to Egypt during the era of Mohammed Mursi who allowed the Palestinian Syrian families to enter the Egyptian lands. It is worth mentioning that Egypt now prevents the entry of Palestinian Syrians to its lands.

#### Palestinians of Syria; Numbers and Statistics till 1\06\2016:

- 15500 Palestinian Syrian refugees are in Jordan
- 42.500 Palestinian Syrian refugees are in Lebanon
- 6000 Palestinian Syrian refugees are in Egypt, according to the UNRWA statistics till July 2015
- 8000 Palestinian Syrian refugees are in Turkey
- 1000 Palestinian Syrian refugees are in Gaza
- More than 71.2 thousand Palestinian Syrian refugees have reached Europe till the End of December 2015
- The Yarmouk Camp: siege, imposed by the Regular Army and PFGC groups, continued for 1109 consecutive days. Power cut continued for more than 1171 days, water was cut for 660 days respectively. The number of siege victims is 18 V.
- Al Sbeina Camp: Regular Army is still preventing the residents of the camp to return back to their houses for 963 days respectively.
- **Handarat Camp:** All Residents have left the camp for about 1 '55 days after the Syrian Opposition Groups controlled it.
- **Dara'a Camp:** It is now almost 816 days without water and almost 70% of its buildings were demolished.

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- Jermana, AL Saieda ZAinab, Al Raml, Al Aedein Camps in Homs and Hamma: A relatively quiet situation in light of the economic crises.
- Khan Al Sheih Camp: Roads linking the camp to the city center are still closed except for Zakia- Khan Al Sheih road.