



الخاص بأوضاع اللجئين الفلسطينيينفي سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

AGPS Submitted 20 Documents to UNHRC to Push for Release of Palestinian Prisoners in Syria

- Member of Pro-Regime Militia Asks for 100 Million Pounds to Release Detained Palestinians
- In Palestinians of Syria Lash Out at UNRWA
- Weddings Marred by Arbitrary Gunshooting in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian Refugees



## Daily report on the situation of Palestinians refugees in Syria

## **Latest Developments**

Over recent years, AGPS has submitted at least 20 documents at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) about the dire situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria, including those who have been subjected to enforced disappearance in prison.

The Syrian regime should live up to its promises recently made in the amnesty issued by the country's president Bashar AlAsad to people convicted on terrorism charges before 30 April 2022. The amnesty excludes acts that have led to killings or kidnappings, and those against whom there are civil personal claims.

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

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.

Along similar lines, Mohamed AlSa'eed, chief commander of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, ordered the family of a member of the group who has been detained since June to pay a sum of 100 Syrian pounds in order to release their relative.

The family's relative has been held captive over allegations of involvement in drug and arms trafficking among other crimes.

Local sources told AGPS that the commander is at loggerheads with the detainee's brother.

The commander of Liwaa AlQuds Brigade, Mohamed AlSa'id, affiliated with the Syrian regime, has been reportedly involved in campaigns to force Palestinian refugee youths sheltered in the



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displacement camps of Hindarat and AlNeirab, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, to join pro-regime militias in Syria.

Nearly 7,000 gunmen are enlisted at Liwaa AlQuds brigade, among them 600 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in refugee camps across the Syrian territories.

A number of Palestinian refugee families have been blackmailed by Liwaa AlQuds brigade affiliated with the Syrian regime, as they appealed for the release of their relatives who have been arbitrarily arrested by the militia.

Palestinian refugees have been charged with counterfeit accusations, including drug trafficking, sexual abuse, and affiliations with rival parties in order to force their families to pay large sums of money to avoid fatal torture and long prison-terms.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group have been accused of running a network for drug trafficking in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas. Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cashstrapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

AGPS kept record of the death of 90 Palestinian refugees as they fought alongside Liwaa AlQuds forces since 2013.

In another development, Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA over its reluctance regarding their cries for help.

"We've been receiving no more than 20 USD from UNRWA every three or four months in a country where most of us, Palestinian refugees, lost our livelihoods", a refugee told AGPS.

UNRWA cash grants, which are disbursed to the refugees according to the exchange rate of the Central Bank of Syria, lose 40% of their real value.

At the same time, in-kind aid items are distributed once or twice a year in a country where price inflation has reached a zenith.

UNRWA healthcare grants are also limited to patients with chronic diseases. The refugees are often forced to pay 2,000 USD for laboratory tests pending disbursement by UNRWA.



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The refugees also said UNRWA has been involved in corrupt recruitment procedures as non-Palestinians affiliated with the Syrian regime have reportedly been recruited by the Agency.

Eleven years after demonstrations started in Syria, some 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in the war-torn country, where they have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation.

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 120,000 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.

In the meantime, residents of AlHusaniya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, strongly condemned the uncontrolled possession of weapons by pro-government gunmen.

In a letter emailed to AGPS, a resident of AlHusainiya said militias have been unleashing barrages of gunfire during celebrations and wedding parties held in the camp, resulting in injuries among civilians.

Recently, a gunman fired gunshots in the air, killing a civilian.

The residents slammed such "irresponsible acts", calling for disarming the camp and protecting civilians against the hazardous circulation of arms.