

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

Father of Palestinian Victim Seen in Al-Tadamon Massacre Footage Urges UNHRC to Bring Criminals to Justice

- Displaced Palestinian Families Denounce Attempts to Block Their Return to Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugees in AlNeirab Camp Denounce Manipulation of Power Generators
- Palestinian Refugee Child Wins Mental Math Competition

Latest Developments

On behalf of the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) and the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) in London, the father of Palestinian refugee Waseem Seyam, who was identified in a recent footage of the victims of a Damascus massacre, delivered a statement as part of Agenda Item 4 of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"My name is Omar Seyam, from Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees", said the father. "My dearest son Waseem, I miss you so much and it hurts. From the moment you left the house, and never returned, our life has turned upside down."

"Every time your daughters ask me about your absence, I just go tight-lipped", he said addressing his deceased son. "The footage of the Tadamun massacre published by The Guardian in April 2022 was just shocking and dreadful for us all. I can't believe that you were mercilessly shot dead along with other victims while being blindfolded and zip-tied after you were forced to run towards an execution pit. Your bodies were then set on fire. This horrendous crime is just scandalous."

"Dear Members of the UN Human Rights Council, this is an opportunity to draw your attention to the mass-execution pit of AlTadamun, a neighborhood adjacent to Yarmouk Camp. There is undeniable proof that dozens of persons who have been forcibly-disappeared since 2012 have faced a similar fate", said the father.

"I am wondering whether you will be speaking up for my son and the other victims or you will be turning your backs on such atrocities committed by the Syrian regime forces", he added. "I hope that you would take serious and urgent steps to bring war criminals to justice and push for the release of the forciblydisappeared in Syria before it is too late".

The Palestinian Return Centre has submitted to the United Nations an extensive written report on the Al-Tadamon neighborhood massacre, which was officially filed under No. A/HRC/50/NGO/116.



In another development, residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, have denounced ongoing attempts to block their access to their homes and property in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus.

Eye-witnesses said members of the AlNour community, wearing special dresses, have been raking through evacuated homes and holding sway over civilians' property and reconstruction materials.

Activists and residents of Yarmouk Camp continue to slam Damascus authorities over their apathy regarding their appeals to reconstruct destroyed premises and facilitate civilians' return to the camp.

The refugees said none of the pledges made by Damascus Governorate regarding the rehabilitation of Yarmouk Camp have been materialized on the ground.

Palestinian families continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria. Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

Meanwhile, residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, denounced the dishonesty and corrupt practices of operators of power generators in the camp.

A woman said she caught sight of an owner of a power generator replacing the residents' 2-amp circuit breaker with another having a lower capacity as a means to force civilians to buy more amperes.

Another resident said subscribers of private power generators have been subjected to blackmail and cheating.



A woman said the generator is operated from 08:00 p.m., instead of 05 p.m., and abruptly cut off at 11:30 p.m., instead of 03:00 a.m., saying the owner receives 17,000 Syrian pounds for every ampere, up from 5,000 SP tariff set by the government.

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.

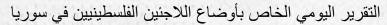
The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Majd Mohamed Abu Abed won the first place in an arithmetic contest held in Deraa, south of Syria.

Nine-year-old Majd, born and raised in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, has qualified for the finals in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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 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.