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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Syrian Gov't Blocks Retrieval of Palestinian Dead Bodies from Yarmouk Debris"

- Committee Overseeing Debris-Clearance in Yarmouk Meets Palestinian Officials in Ramallah
- Palestinian Refugee Hafedh Huswa Secretly Held in Syria Jail for 5th Year
- UNICEF: Lives of Children at Risk amid Heavy Fighting and Floods in Northwest Syria



Latest Developments

The Action Group for the Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) slammed the Syrian authorities for preventing Yarmouk residents from removing dead bodies stranded beneath the mounds of debris piled up in the camp.

According to private sources, over 80 cadavers have been left under the mounds of rubble into which civilian homes have been turned in the warfare, particularly in AlUruba Street, south of Yarmouk, and the western corners of the camp.

The list reportedly includes bodies of civilians and ISIS gunmen who were hiding in the area. Sometime earlier, the Syrian authorities pulled the bodies of pro-government gunmen from the area.



The Syrian security forces obstructed the work of the Palestinian Red Crescent staff members who attempted to get into the area and pull the dead bodies.

The Syrian authorities claimed the ban comes on account that the cadavers' identities remain unknown and that none of their relatives has showed up in the area.



Several months ago, activists said the bodies of Abdul Hadi Fayez Abdul Hadi, Basima Ghoutani, Haifa AlHaj, Mohamed Hadaba, and Enshirah AlShaabi have been stranded under rubble in Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park, in Yarmouk.

AGPS calls on the international human rights institutions to immediately step in and pressurize the Syrian government to greenlight taking out Palestinian dead bodies from underneath the debris.

Meanwhile, the committee tasked with following up on debrisclearance and the reconstruction of AlShuhadaa Cemetery in Yarmouk Camp met with Palestinian officials in Ramallah, namely the head of the Department of Refugee Affairs Dr. Ahmad Abu Holi and member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Central Committee, Azzam AlAhmad.

Speaking during the meeting, Abu Holi hailed the Syrian government's decision to boost reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp, which he dubbed a key step to face up to Trump's pro-Israel deal of the century.



Abu Holi said consultations have been ongoing to reconstruct UNRWA premises, estimated at 30, in Yarmouk Camp, referring to



a meeting held by the agency in Jordan in November to that end and which he said culminated in a decision to include the rehabilitation project in UNRWA's 2019 program and to smooth the refugees' return to their homes.

The committee overseeing debris-clearance in Yarmouk Camp said efforts have been under full swing to remove the remaining rubble from the camp in an attempt to give way to UNRWA reconstruction projects.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Hafedh Fyasal Huswa has been incarcerated in state-run penal complexes in Syria for the fifth consecutive year.

The detainee was kidnapped by pro-government squads at a Yarmouk roadblock on July 11, 2013. His fate has been shrouded in mystery and none of his family members has managed to reach out to him.

AGPS kept record of the internment of 1,724 Palestinians in Syrian state penitentiaries, among whom 108 female refugees.

In another development, UNICEF has said that children continue to pay the heaviest price due to the escalation in violence in northwest Syria.

The UN agency said it received alarming reports of 80 people killed, including one child.

Many families are fleeing their homes as conflict intensifies, with no place to go but to already overcrowded camps hosting displaced families, reported UNICEF.



Floods swept through the area on 26 December, affecting nearly 10,000 children in Atmeh, Qah, Deir Ballut, Albab, Jisr Ashughur among other areas. Exposed to harsh winter weather and freezing temperature conditions, children's lives are hanging by a thread, added UNICEF.

The number of impacted children will increase if fighting continues and as more heavy rain is expected. Many of those children have been displaced, some multiple times.



"The suffering of children in northwest Syria has tripled due to this recent escalation of violence, harsh weather conditions and lack of safe refuge. UNICEF calls on all parties fighting in the area and elsewhere in Syria to protect children at all times and allow humanitarian workers to reach children and families in need with lifesaving supplies" said Geert Cappelaere, Regional Director of UNICEF in the Middle East and North Africa.

Sometime earlier, an AGPS news corespondet said a civilian was killed and several others injured, including six children, in a shoutout between Tahrir AlSham and the National Front for Liberation in Deir Ballout Camp, north of Syria.



Nearly 600 displaced families, among them 325 Palestinian families, have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout Camp, after they were forced out of Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns.