



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Palestinian Refugee Family in Iraq Appeal for Information over Their Forcibly-Disappeared Relative in Syria

- Following Presidential Amnesty in Syria, Palestinian Prisoners' Families Call for Transparency
- Eid Celebration Held by Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon



Latest Development

15 Palestinians have been released from Syrian regime prisons over the past week, following a presidential amnesty issued the country's president Bashar AlAsad.

The release decision has been issued at random, leaving hundreds of families on tenterhooks as they continue to impatiently seek information about the condition and whereabouts of their relatives.

AGPS has been able to identify the names of 15 newly-released Palestinian refugees: Mohamed Kareem Rashdan and Ashraf Mahmoud, both from Khan Eshieh Camp, along with Mazen Mohamed AlSukari, a resident of Arabein who was released on April 3. Noufen Mohamed, from Latakia, also appears on the list.

On Thursday, Palestinian refugees Mohamed Khalil Kasem, Naser Khalifa, Zuheir Ahmad Salim, Shadi Mustafa Khurmi, residents of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, were released.

The list includes three women: Reham Walid Alyan, Hala Abdul Karim Makat, and Ghousoun Abu Hashish.

On Friday, the Syrian regime released Palestinian refugees Nidal Ibrahim Tamim, from Qudsaya town, Yehya Darwish, from AlHajar AlAswad, and Bayan Ali AlDandel.

Scores of other prisoners released as part of the amnesty have been unidentified. Recently, the families of hundreds of Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons have reported



being blackmailed over their appeals for information about the condition and whereabouts of their missing relatives.

Speaking on Prisoners' Voice website, ex-prisoners and activists have warned prisoners' families not to publish their relatives' personal information on social media networks.

Along similar lines, over recent days, prisoners families, including Palestinian refugees, continue to assemble in the "President's Bridge" area, awaiting the arrival of buses carrying people who have been held for years in Syria's infamous prisons, many for participating in the 2011 protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

Other families have gathered for days in Sednaya, north of Damascus, which is home to Syria's largest and most notorious military prison.

Palestinian refugee families expressed fear that their relatives would not be released in the amnesty, saying they have suspicions as to how sincere the Syrian regime could be.

A Palestinian women lying on the ground in the "President's Bridge" area, in the Syrian capital, Damascus, told AGPS: "I have not returned home for days. I've been there from the moment the amnesty entered into effect wishing that my eyes would stumble upon my son whom I have not met for the fourth year".

The son of another forcibly-disappeared Palestinian refugee said: "We haven't seen a moment's rest for days. My family and I



continue to go far and wide across Damascus to find our father who has gone missing since 2015.”

On Saturday, Assad issued a decree giving a general amnesty 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.

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.

The Prisoners’ Council said the regime claimed 2,500 people would be included in the amnesty. However, no more than a few hundreds have been released so far.

Nizar Sedkni, deputy justice minister, said the amnesty included those convicted of various crimes, including being involved in or financing a “terror group”, a term often used for opposition groups.

Justice Minister Ahmed el-Sayed described the amnesty as a comprehensive national reconciliation, telling the state-operated al-Watan newspaper that it was contributing to the return of thousands of refugees.

The releases come after the Guardian revealed last week that in 2013 military security agents executed about 42 people by pushing them into a hole, shooting them and then burning them.

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 1,700 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.

Meanwhile, the family of Palestinian refugee Amer Lutfi AlQudsiya continues to appeal for information about the condition and whereabouts of their forcibly-disappeared relative.

Amer has been secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons since 2012.

The Association of Palestinians of Iraq said Amer, an Iraqi-Palestinian, was a resident of Loubiya Street, in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus. He was arrested by the end of 2012 on his way out of Yarmouk along with scores of other residents who attempted to leave the besieged camp for fear of dying from starvation.

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