



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Families Displaced from Yarmouk Camp Forced Out of Southern Damascus Shelter"

- Return of Displaced Palestinian Families to AlHajar AlAswad Approved by Syrian Security Forces
- 2 More Coronavirus Cases Reported in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Barghouth Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jails

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## Latest developments

A number of families displaced from Yarmouk Camp have been forced out of shelters in Yalda town, south of Damascus, by Syrian security forces who threw their furniture and personal belongings on the streets.

Syrian security forces and police officers in Yalda and Babila towns evacuated schools where dozens of displaced families have been taking shelter.

Sawt AlAsima website said the measure was carried out in the presence of the head of the local municipal council and Yalda mayor, who gave orders to evacuate all the buildings by next Friday.

The municipal council claimed the evacuation order falls in line with endeavors to reconstruct schools with the advent of the new academic year.

In another development, the Damascus Governor said security approvals have been issued to allow the return of displaced families to three neighborhoods in AlHajar AlAswad, south of Damascus.

The Governor pledged to increase the number of vehicles and staff tasked with rubble-clearance.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees took shelter in AlHajar AlAswad, which came under heavy shelling since 2013 and a crippling siege after ISIS crept into the area. Offensives launched



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by the Syrian and Russian forces resulted in heavy material damage and took away the lives of dozens of civilians.

Meanwhile, two residents of the Palestinian refugee camp of Deraa tested positive for coronavirus, in the first such cases in the camp.

Both residents, members of the same family, quarantined themselves at their house.

An AGPS reporter said a state of panic has overwhelmed the residents for fear of further coronavirus contaminations.

Confirmed coronavirus cases have been increasingly reported in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria, at a time when residents have been launching cries for help over the absence of hygiene kit and medicines.

Civilians continue to slam UNRWA's apathy, saying an urgent action is needed to save the displacement camps.

Over recent months, AGPS has also warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.

Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.





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In the meantime, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Omar Barghouth, aged 22, has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons since September 18, 2012.

Mohamed, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, was arrested by Syrian security forces at a government checkpoint in Babila

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of



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those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in jails and in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who tested positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.