



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

06-10-2019

No. 2828

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Forcibly-Disappeared Palestinian Refugee in Syria Released after 7 Years in Syrian Jails"

- Civilians Left under Threat of War Remnants in Syria's Daraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Students of Yarmouk Camp to Sign Up for School Transportation
- Humanitarian Aids Handover to Displaced Palestinian Families on Greek Island

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Ahmad Mustafa Khalil was released from Syrian government prisons following a seven-year secret detention term.

Sources close to the ex-prisoner said he has been forcibly disappeared since 2012. His family fled to the Turkish metropolitan city of Istanbul after they were told that he died in custody. Due to his mysterious fate, his wife, who failed to obtain information about his whereabouts, divorced him and got married in another country.



Khalil, who has gone traumatized due to enforced disappearance and torture, launched appeals to reunite with his family. He was born and raised in Halfaya, north of Syria, before he moved to Hama province.

Activists have launched an online campaign in solidarity with Khalil, who has not met with his family for seven years.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,768 Palestinian refugees, including 108 women and girls, in Syrian government lock-ups.



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Medical studies have shown that prisoners who fall prey to enforced disappearance and heavy psycho-physical torture are never the same again once they are released from penal complexes. The upshots of such a dreadful experience are so heavy that the ex-prisoner is very likely to lose his psychological equilibrium and remain traumatized for the rest of his/her lifetime.

In another development, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, voiced deep concerns over their children's safety due to the spread of unexploded war remnants across and around the camp.

A couple of days earlier, Palestinian child Yamen Musalmeh died after a mysterious object went off in AlMenshiya neighborhood. A few months ago, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Fadi Alderbi was pronounced dead following the explosion of a mysterious object while he was playing outdoors in Daraa.

Last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF called for concerted international action in response to the devastating health consequences of explosive hazards in Syria, saying more than 8 million people were exposed to explosive hazards in Syria, including over 3 million children.





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Available data by WHO indicates that in 2017, at least 910 children were killed and 361 children were maimed in Syria, including by explosive remnants of war and victim-activated improvised explosive devices. In the first 2 months of 2018 alone, 1,000 children were reportedly killed or injured in intensifying violence.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said that, each year, large numbers of civilians are killed and injured by explosive remnants of war, such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict.

For the civilians and communities in war-affected Syria, the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Many innocent civilians, including Palestinian refugees, have lost their lives and limbs by disturbing or inadvertently coming into contact with explosive remnants of war. These weapons have also hindered reconstruction and threatened economic livelihood. Houses, hospitals and schools cannot be rebuilt until such weapons are cleared.

Local communities often have no means of dealing with the problem themselves. Most do not have the technical capacity or the resources to clear explosive remnants of war safely and few have the resources needed to deal with the psychological, medical and rehabilitative needs of victims.

In the meantime, Walid AlKurdi, the education chief in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, called on families taking shelter in the area to subscribe for school transport for their children enrolled at schools located outside of the camp.



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AlKurdi said registration at AlJarmak School will be kick-started at 10 a.m. on Sunday, adding that UNRWA will secure means of transport pending the reconstruction of AlTabegha School.

AlKurdi called on the families to cooperate with the Palestinian Red Crescent and local institutions in order to spread the word to that end.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.

Several UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Meanwhile, Shaghaf Foundation, comprising volunteers from Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, have distributed food aids, diapers, children's milk, and plastic blankets to some 700 displaced families in the Greek island of Samos.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter in Greece.



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Last month, UNICEF warned that the number of unaccompanied migrant minors staying in overcrowded reception centers on the Greek islands exceeds 1,100, the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis in early 2016, calling on European countries to do more to protect vulnerable children.

“We continue to appeal to Greek authorities to transfer children to adequate accommodation on the mainland, but Greece cannot support refugee and migrant children alone,” UNICEF’s regional director for Europe and Central Asia Afshan Khan said from the agency’s headquarters in Geneva.

“It is vital that European governments increase pledges to relocate unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children, and fast-track family reunifications for those who already have relatives in Europe,” she added.

The refugees’ cries for help are a stark reminder that the situation in reception centers in Greece is at a breaking-point.

