



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



### "2 Palestinian Brothers Tortured to Death in Syrian Jails"

- UNRWA Delegation Meets with Representatives of Displaced Palestinians in Lebanon
- Ireland Contributes EUR 2.5 Million to Palestine Refugee Agency
- Leisure Activities Held for People with Disabilities in Khan Dannun Refugee Camp

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Latest Developments

AGPS has learned that two Palestinian brothers from Syria's AlHusainiya camp died under torture in Syrian government prisons following years of secret detention.

AGPS has kept their names secret at the request of their families.

The death brings the toll of Palestinian victims of torture in Syria's state-run penal complexes to 614.

Field reporters believe the real numbers to be far higher due to the government's reticence to reveal the names and fates of Palestinian detainees' and the families' fears to disclose their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

The list of victims includes activists, volunteers, medics, engineers, academics, journalists, university students, and artists.



According to data by AGPS, 1,769 Palestinian refugees, among them children, women and elderly refugees, have been enduring unknown fates in Syrian government lock-ups. Toddlers clinging to their mothers' arms have also been spotted in Syrian jails.



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According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian refugees have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to disclose the condition and whereabouts of Palestinian refugees held in its penitentiaries.

AGPS believes that such practices represent flagrant violations of international law which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against civilians.

In another development, director of UNRWA operations in Lebanon Claudio Cordoni met on Wednesday with representatives of the Commission of Displaced Palestinians from Syria in Burj AlBarajneh refugee camp in Lebanon.

The delegations discussed the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the repercussions of the latest surge in anti-government protests on the refugee community.



Representatives of the displaced Palestinians from Syria underscored the deteriorating humanitarian condition of the Palestinian refugee community due to the lack of access to basic





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services, particularly education and health care, along with their frail legal status.

The commission urged UNRWA to adopt an emergency relief plan to respond to the crisis and provide the refugees with much-needed winter aids. They further called on the agency to increase food and shelter allowances, to implement protection programs, enhance education services, provide healthcare services to people with disabilities, afford start-up loans, and put into effect programs of psychological support.

Cordoni pledged to transmit the refugees' messages to the United Nations and to make all necessary steps in order to alleviate their suffering.

Along similar lines, Ireland has announced EUR 2.5 million contribution in funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The announcement was made shortly after a high-level Irish delegation led by the Irish Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, visited the Gaza Strip on Monday and met Palestine refugee students from the UNRWA school in Jabalia refugee camp.

Their visit enabled the Irish delegation to see first-hand the impact of Ireland's commitment to supporting quality basic education for children, including the 282,000 UNRWA students in Gaza.

"I was pleased to inform UNRWA that Ireland will provide an additional EUR 2.5 million in funding to this year to support the



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delivery of these core services. This brings Ireland's support to UNRWA in 2019 to EUR 7.5 million," said Minister Coveney.

In meetings with UNRWA management, the delegation discussed the humanitarian situation in the besieged Strip and the operational challenges facing the Agency.

Following the meeting with students, Minister Coveney said: "Ireland is a long-standing supporter of UNRWA in its provision of services to Palestinian refugees. I have seen at first hand today just how vital the provision of education and health care is in maintaining the hope, rights and dignity of refugees here in Gaza."

UNRWA serves both the emergency and development needs of some 1.4 million Palestine refugees residing in the coastal enclave, the large majority of whom are dependent on services and assistance from UNRWA, given the dire socio-economic situation in Gaza - a result of thirteen years of blockade, repeated rounds of hostilities and ongoing political deadlock.

Trond Jensen, Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, said: "Ireland sets a great example in terms of their support for Palestine refugees and has stood very firmly with the Agency during very challenging times. A visit like today sends a strong message of hope to the people of Gaza, especially to our young students, showing them that their futures matter and their voices are heard."

"We are tremendously grateful for our partnership with the people and Government of Ireland and their important political and



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financial support provided to UNRWA and Palestine refugees, including in Gaza”, he added.

UNRWA is confronted with an increased demand for services resulting from a growth in the number of registered Palestine refugees, the extent of their vulnerability and their deepening poverty. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions and financial support has been outpaced by the growth in needs. As a result, the UNRWA program budget, which supports the delivery of core essential services, operates with a large shortfall.

In the meantime, members of the Palestinian Red Crescent Organization in Syria organized activities for children with special needs in Khan Dannun refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq.

Gifts were distributed as part of the event, held in partnership with the Danish Red Cross

