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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in Thailand Urge Mahmoud Abbas to Step In"

- Al-Khalidi: Return to Yarmouk Camp Indefinite
- UNRWA Official, PLO Envoy Discuss Situation in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Writer Ali Sa'id AlShehabi Held in Syrian Gov't Prison for 6th Year



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in Thailand have renewed their appeals to the Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, urging him to take serious action regarding the calamitous situation endured by dozens of displaced Palestinians in Thailand, where they have been the permanent targets of arrest sweeps and arbitrary detention.

The refugees urged Abbas to pressurize the Thai authorities so as to release refugees trapped at IDC detention center and grant them legal and physical protection.



The refugees said the Thai authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for visa-renewal after they overstayed their residence permits. The Thai government also prohibited renting homes to the refugees, who have been considered as lawbreakers rather than asylum-seekers.

The refugees lashed out, in the letter to Abbas, at the UNHCR for dragging its feet over the refugees' cries for help and the mistreatment they have been subjected to in Thailand.



The stranded Palestinians expressed wishes that Abbas would lend them a hand and seriously work on assuaging their tragic situation.

Meanwhile, Palestine's Ambassador in Syria, Mahmoud AlKhalidi, said local authorities in Damascus have been tasked with rehabilitating infrastructure in Yarmouk Camp, pending the return of the residents to their homes.



Speaking to AlWatan daily, AlKhalidi said no specific time-span has been set for the return of civilians to the camp.

At the same time, member of the Fatah Central Committee Dr. Samir AlRefai, also secretary of the political factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, met with UNRWA's regional director in Syria Mohammed Abdi Adar.

Both parties discussed the latest developments in Yarmouk Camp and the implications of a recent decision by the Syria government green-lighting the return of Yarmouk residents.

AlRefai and Adar also tackled UNRWA's projected measures to rehabilitate destroyed facilities in the camp.



AlRefai briefed the UN official about PLO's planned measures to urge donor parties to boost funding for the agency in order for the latter to be able to reconstruct its damaged structures, particularly schools, clinics, relief facilities, and youth empowerment centers.

A couple of days earlier, UNRWA lauded the Syrian government's decision to allow Yarmouk residents to safely access their homes from which they have been displaced in the bloody warfare.

In the meantime, Palestinian writer Ali Sa'id Shehabi has been locked up in Syrian state jails for the sixth year running.

AlShehabi, an English instructor at a UNRWA school, was last kidnapped on December 17, 2012. In 1974, he was arrested for the first time and jailed for nine months in AlMezzeh military prison. In 1982 he served a 10-year sentence on account of his affiliations with the anti-government Syrian Communist Party.



AlShehabi was re-arrested in 2006 and imprisoned for another seven months over charges of attempting to establish a political party and signing the Beirut-Damascus declaration, a statement



signed in 2006 by Lebanese and Syrian activists and intellectuals who called on the Syrian government to correct its relationship with Lebanon and to respect Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. The declaration also called for an end to political killings in Lebanon.

Since its publication on May 12, 2006, many of the Syrian signatories have been fired from their jobs and have been subject to persecution. BBC reported that seven opposition figures were jailed for signing it.

Prior to his abduction, Shehabi had been taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.