



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

11-01-2021

No. 3002

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Raise Concerns over Security Sweeps South of Syria"

- Playground Turned into Cemetery in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- Members of Liwaa AlQuds Killed in Syria Shootouts
- Palestinian Sisters Houda and Samira AlKhatib Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons
- Tents Swamped by Heavy Rain on Greek Island

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

A number of Palestinian refugees have voiced deep concerns over the security situation in the western corners of Deraa province, south of Syria, following threats launched by the Fourth Division of the Syrian security forces to raid the area.

Local sources told AGPS that officers from the Fourth Division claimed they received reports about the presence of ISIS gunmen in the area. Local residents denied the claims.

Along similar lines, a children's park has been turned into a cemetery for war victims in Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria.

In 2012, the residents were forced to bury their deceased relatives in the playground after they failed to reach the local cemetery due to heavy shelling and deadly shootouts.

On July 27, 2012, the war machinery claimed the lives of dozens of civilians. Their bodies were all buried overnight in a collective pit dug in the playground. The area has become known as the "Martyrs' Cemetery".

Meanwhile, deaths and injuries were reported among Liwaa AlQuds gunmen, affiliated with the Syrian regime, in an ISIS ambush targeting a bus carrying pro-government forces on the Ethria highway, in Hama's outskirts.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to



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

become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

In the meantime, Palestinian sisters Houda, born in 1975, and Samira Mahmoud Khatib, born in 1970, have been secretly held in Syrian government prisons since 2013.

Both sisters were raised in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus. Their family continues to appeal for information over their condition and whereabouts.

Statistics released by AGPS on the International Women's Day last year documented the secret detention of 110 Palestinian women and girls in Syria's government prisons.

AGPS also documented the death of at least 34 Palestinian women under torture in Syria's state-run penal complexes.

At the same time, 486 Palestinian women from Syria have been pronounced dead since the outburst of the bloody warfare in the Syrian Arab Republic.



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

AGPS believes the numbers to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

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

Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.

In another development, torrential downpours have swamped migrant tents in a camp set up on the Greek island of Lesbos.

An AGPS news correspondent said the heavy rains turned the camp into a mud bog, exacerbating even further the migrants' squalid humanitarian condition.



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

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. However, the initial hope for change after the destruction of their shelters in war-torn Syria turned into an endless fear for those living inside the camp. They fear they've ended up in a shelter that is far worse, with the global coronavirus pandemic adding to their worries. Many feel they will never be able to get out of what seems like an endless ordeal.

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

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.