

11-09-2020

No. 2880

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"280 Palestinian Refugees Affiliated with PLA Killed in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Displacement Camp Subjected to Deplorable Housing Situation
- 4 Palestinian Children with Disabilities Receive Wheelchairs from UNRWA
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Gheibtawi Held in Syrian Jails for 6th Year



Latest developments

In statistics released on the 56th founding anniversary of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), AGPS said that 280 Palestinian refugees fighting alongside PLA forces were pronounced dead since the outbreak of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Most of the casualties died in such Rif Dimashq areas as Tel Kurdi and Tel Sawan and also in AlSweida region, south of Syria.

15 PLA members were pronounced dead after they broke away from the battalion. Several others were tortured to death in Syrian government jails. 17 members have been forcibly disappeared since 2011.

Scores of Palestinian youths have been forced to join the PLA. Those who refuse forced conscription are often subjected to manhunt and imprisonment. Thousands of young men have fled the country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

Last year, the PLA's former Chief of Staff, Major General Tareq AlKhadra, said nearly 6,000 conscripts have been fighting alongside PLA at over 15 sites across war-ravaged Syria.

In another development, residents of AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo have denounced the poor conditions and overcrowding they have been subjected to in the camp.

The residents said adjacent building construction has had negative impacts on their hygiene and health condition due to lack of proper ventilation, exposure to sunlight, and privacy.



With the dramatic rise of coronavirus cases in Syria and the world, civilians remain at an increasing risk of contracting the virus.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The camp was established between 1948-1950 for refugees from northern Palestine on 0.15 square kilometers in and around army barracks constructed by the Allied Forces during World War II. The refugees found shelter in the barracks which they modified as best they could to provide some privacy and to accommodate the needs of their growing families.

While UNRWA has been able to make essential improvements and maintenance to the barracks, the housing situation in Neirab remains deplorable. Poor shelters and poor construction of the



barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

In another development, director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, Prafulla Mishra, distributed battery-operated wheelchairs to four Palestinian children with special needs in Syria.

UNRWA said in a statement that the four children are enrolled at UNRWA schools and are residents of Berzeh area in Damascus and the refugee camps of Khan Eshieh, Jaramana, and Sabina, in Rif Dimashq.

UNRWA said it assists more than 2,300 Palestine refugees with disabilities in Syria, who have had their lives marred by the unabated warfare and bloody strife.

Assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees, including persons with disabilities, is provided by donors like the European Union. The European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has funded assistance to those with disabilities, as well as female-headed households.

In the meantime, Palestinian young man Mohamed Erfi Ghebtawi, born in 1983, has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian government prisons for the 6th consecutive year.

Mohamed was arrested on January 5, 2014 in Ali AlWahsh Street, in Hjeira town, south of Damascus, on his way out of Yarmouk Camp.



AGPS has kept record of the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government dungeons, among them 110 women and girls.