



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

12-10-2021

No. 3377

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Refugee Children Exposed to Abuse in AlHusainiya Camp"

- Families of Palestinian Prisoners Blackmailed in Syria
- Calls Launched for Return Permissions in Yarmouk Camp
- 11 Palestinian Students from AlNeirab Camp Admitted into Aleppo Medicine Faculty

+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

Children have been spotted in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees while carrying sheets of paper allegedly showing their home addresses.

This comes after the Syrian Ministry of Interior warned that children claiming to have been lost drag people to locations where gangsters involved in rape, murder, and human organ trafficking are found.

Activists called on the residents to turn in any child claiming to have been lost to the nearest police station. Children, themselves, are the victims of criminal gangs.

Civilians continue to call on UNRWA, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and international organizations defending children's human rights to work on securing children's right to physical and psychological protection.

Parents have raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among schoolchildren and university students, several among whom left their academic institutions to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

The warfare in Syria, which has now entered its eleventh year, has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside the Syrian territories.



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

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled Syria and provide those who fled the war-torn country with physical and moral protection in the host countries.

AGPS has recorded the death of over 250 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria. Hundreds more have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

Along similar lines, the families of hundreds of Palestinian refugees secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons have been blackmailed over their appeals for information.

Hundreds of families have paid large sums of money of at least \$2,000 up to \$30,000 to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about the condition and whereabouts of their missing relatives.

The families hardly ever receive the required pieces of information and the traffickers never show up again as soon as they are paid.

In a report entitled "Syria: Between Prison and the Grave" and published in 2015, Amnesty International warned that tens of thousands of people in Syria have vanished without a trace. They



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

are the victims of enforced disappearance – when a person is arrested, detained or abducted by a state or agents acting for the state, who then deny the person is being held or conceal their whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law. The disappeared are cut off from the outside world, packed into overcrowded, secret cells where torture is routine, disease is rampant and death is commonplace. Their families are forced to live in desperation with few, if any, safe ways of finding their loved ones.

According to the report, the number of actors seeking to use the system for their own personal gain or advantage has increased. As a result of this opportunism by state security officers, an even greater number of individuals have been subjected to enforced disappearance in Syria. Amnesty International's research suggested that those who exploit the system are driven by two primary motivations: first, the pursuit of financial profit, and second, the settling of personal grievances.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron





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

sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

Meanwhile, activists have called on the residents of Yarmouk Camp to submit demands at security offices in order to be able to return to their homes and retrieve their property.

The activists said the displaced residents should take profit from the complete closure of the camp for rubble-clearance work in order to pressurize authorities to greenlight their return to their homes as soon as these works are finalized.

UN data indicates that before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

In April 2015, armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining civilian population. This not only made relief institutions unable to carry



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

out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighboring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

In the meantime, a number of Palestinian refugee students were admitted into Syria's public universities.

The list includes 11 students from the AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo, who will pursue their studies at the Aleppo Faculty of Medicine.