



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



"Body of Palestinian Refugee Spotted under Aleppo Rubble"

- Property-Theft ongoing in Yarmouk Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Wins Gold Medal in US Ballet Competition
- Palestinian Brothers Emad and Fares AlSamour Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons
- Evros River Floods Puts Migrants' Life in Jeopardy

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Latest Developments

Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, said the body of one of its members was found under the debris of a building attacked by opposition outfits on May 3, 2012, in AlZahraa neighborhood, in Aleppo.

The body of Mohamed Reda Samara was pulled from rubble on Wednesday.

In 2012, 50 members of Liwaa AlQuds battalion, including Palestinian refugees Mohamed Reda Samara, from AlNeirab Camp, and Ibrahim Ahmed Ali, from Handarat Camp, were killed in an attack targeting the group.

Over 90 Palestinian refugees were killed since 2013 as they fought alongside Liwaa AlQuds brigade.

In another development, reports of burglary and theft continue to emerge in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees have been taking shelter.

Local sources told AGPS that thieves have been stealing water pipes and sanitation stuff from the camp.

Trucks laden with furniture and equipment seized from abandoned buildings in and around Yarmouk camp have been freely entering and exiting the camp in the presence of Syrian security forces.



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Palestinian families displaced from the area continue to call on the concerned authorities to allow them a safe return to their homes and to press ahead with reconstruction projects.

Over recent years, pro-government militias have been raking through evacuated homes in Damascus and holding sway over furniture, copper, iron, and kitchenware belonging to displaced families.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.

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 UNRWA unable to carry out any



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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.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.

Meanwhile, Palestinian young man Karmel Ahmed Suleiman earned the gold medal in a dance competition staged as part of the Ballet Beyond Borders festival, held in Los Angeles city.

Karmel was born in 2001 in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq. He joined several dance and theatre bands in Syria and performed in several musical and theatrical shows.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional



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and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In the meantime, Palestinian Brothers Emad Fares AlSamour, 33 and Iyad Fares AlSamour, 30, have been secretly held in Syrian government prisons since December 13, 2012.

The two brothers, residents of AlHajar AlAswad, were arrested by Syrian government forces in Sehnaya town, in Rif Dimashq. Their condition and whereabouts have not been identified.

AGPS 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 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

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



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AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

Along similar lines, human rights activists have warned migrants against attempting to cross the Evros River on the Turkish-Greek borders after heavy downpours caused it to flood.

The Evros region is a major crossing point for refugees and migrants trying to enter the EU from Turkey.

AGPS documented the death of over 56 Palestinian refugees from Syria as they tried to cross borders on Europe-bound migrant boats.

Last year, two Palestinian refugees from Syria—Yazen Milad Qudsiya, from Handarat refugee camp, and Layth Mohamed, from Jaramana camp—were pronounced dead after they drowned on the perilous journey across the Evros River, near the Turkish-Greek borders.