



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

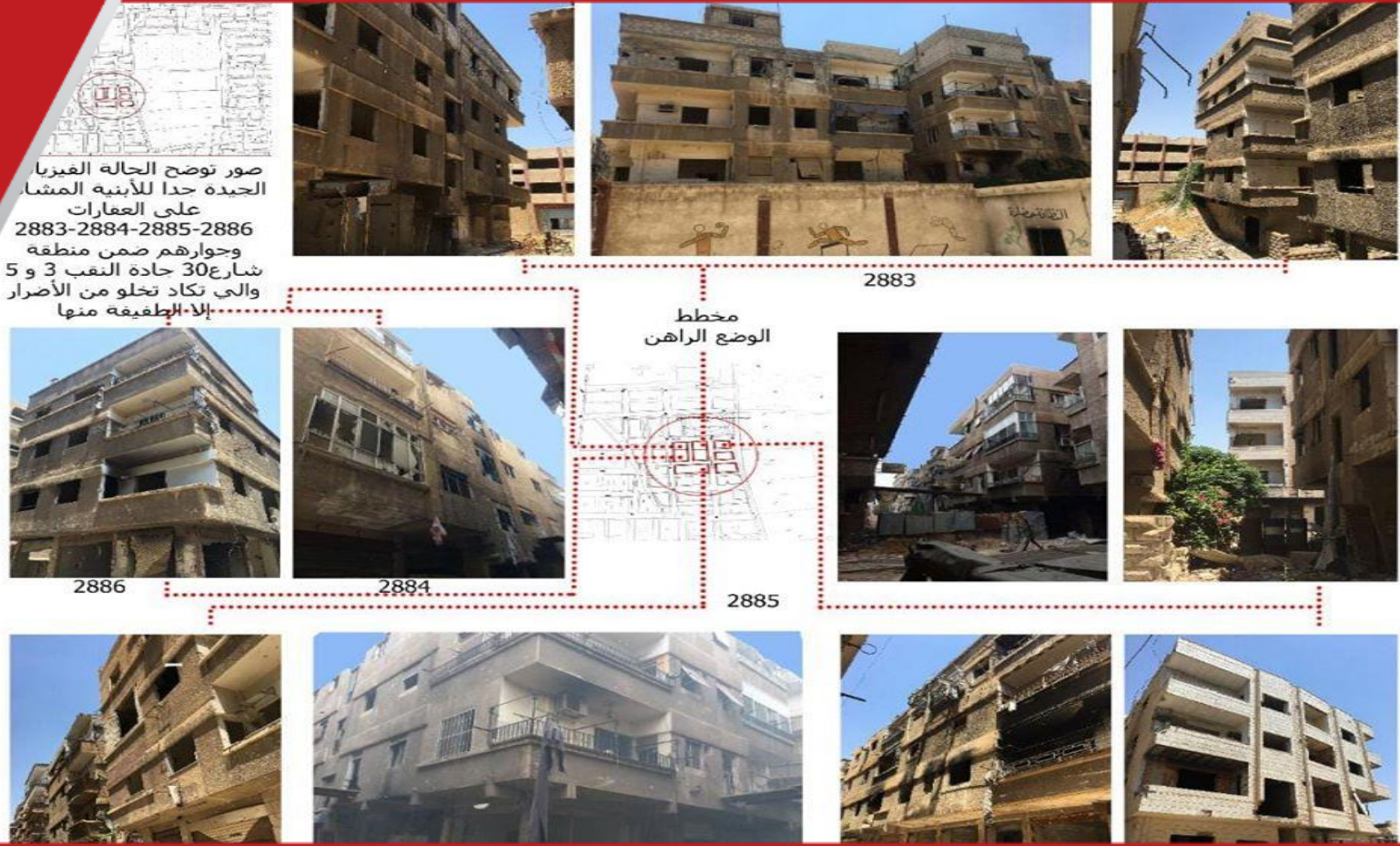
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian, Syrian Lawyers Ready to File Lawsuits against Damascus Governorate over Yarmouk's New Organizational Plan"

- Displaced Palestinian Families in Jdeidat AlFadl Facing Squalid Conditions
- Palestinian Refugees Suffer Economic Hardship in Syria
- AGPS: 70 Palestinians from Syria Pronounced Dead in 2019
- Refugees in Greece Protest Against Hostile Migration Policy

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Latest developments

Palestinian and Syrian lawyers said they are ready to file lawsuits to defend the rights of Yarmouk Camp residents following the “unfair” organizational chart set forth by Damascus Governorate to rehabilitate the camp.

A lawyer said on Facebook that the move makes part of underway efforts to pressurize the Damascus Governorate to refrain from implementing the new plan.

The lawyer called on the residents to head for the Judicial Palace during official working hours to appoint lawyers who will speak up for them before courts. Every attorney is entitled to defend up to four people.

In response, a number of residents also called for similar efforts against property-theft in the camp.

A number of activists questioned the efficiency of the initiative, accusing the Syrian judiciary of bias and impartiality.

Palestinian refugees and human rights groups continue to voice their firm rejection of the new organizational plan put forth by Damascus Governorate to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, which has been subjected to massive destruction in the bloody conflict.

Tension has been running high in the area as thousands of refugees continue to rail against the proposed plan, amid growing fears that their homes and property will be removed from the new plan.



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Sometime earlier, the Damascus Governorate said parts of Yarmouk Camp are state property, which implies that the residents are not entitled to own the land but only the property built on it.

Recently, the Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) has called on the Syrian authorities in Damascus to re-examine the new organizational plan and to rather implement the old plan which was approved in 2004.

In a statement issued sometime earlier, AGPS said plans that do not take into account Palestinians' inalienable rights make part of underway conspiracies to further displace the Palestinian people and destroy displacement camps as living witnesses to their refugee plight.

The statement said the new organizational plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

Families displaced from Yarmouk Camp continue to appeal to the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian political factions in Syria to take serious measures in order to facilitate their return to the camp, to pressurize the Syrian government to abandon the new organizational plan, and to rather work on preserving the demographic and historical idiosyncrasy of the shelter.



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Activists warned that in case the plan is implemented, over half of the residents will not be able to return to their houses which they have abandoned in the bloody warfare.

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 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.



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Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees displaced from Yarmouk to Jdeidat AlFadl town, in AlQuneitra province, have appealed to the Palestinian authority, political factions, and UNRWA to provide them with urgent cash and medical assistance.

The displaced families said they have been enduring squalid humanitarian condition. Their situation has been exacerbated by the lockdown slapped by the Syrian Health Ministry as part of anti-coronavirus measures following confirmed COVID-19 cases in the area.

In letters emailed to AGPS, activists said Palestinian taking shelter in Jdeidat Fadl town have not received cash and in-kind aid donated by local and international relief institutions.

Abu Mohamed, displaced from Yarmouk Camp, told AGPS that families continue to struggle for a living in the area. Several Palestinian refugees have been forced to sell their property and furniture to provide for their families and children.

A so-called Abu Yaser also slammed UNRWA and the Palestinian political factions for turning their back on the refugees' cries for help.

On June 21, the Syrian Health Ministry ruled that Jdeidat AlFadl town be quarantined following confirmed coronavirus cases.

Unofficial data indicates that some 100 families displaced from Yarmouk Camp have sought shelter in Jdeidat AlFadl.



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Meanwhile, after nine years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) continue to launch cries for help over their deteriorating humanitarian condition due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and their lack of access to the local labor market. The price leap has also overburdened the cash-stripped refugees. House rents have also seen a striking hike from previous years.

The refugees continue to urge UNRWA and all other concerned parties to increase financial aid, help the displaced families return to their refugee camps, and provide much-needed relief services for Palestine refugees.

Over 90 per cent of Palestine refugee households in Syria live in poverty and 40 per cent remain in protracted displacement as a result of conflict and the damage and destruction of their homes, warned the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said in its 2020 Syria regional crisis emergency appeal that 126,000 Palestine refugees in Syria (PRS) are identified as extremely vulnerable; 89% live in poverty; 91% live in extreme poverty; and 80% rely on UNRWA cash assistance as their main source of income.



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UNRWA also said that 55% of PRS do not possess valid legal residency documents; 100% of PRS are in need of winterization assistance; and 86% of PRS households are reported to be in debt.

The majority of Palestinians sheltered in displacement camps set up across the Syrian territories have remained at bay from political calculations and frequently refused attempts by all warring parties to drag them into the raging warfare, saying their priority is to secure safe shelters for their children and families pending a just and lasting solution to their refugee plight and return to their motherland—Palestine.

In the meantime, AGPS newly-released annual report documenting the situation of the Palestinians of Syria in 2019 has recorded the death of 70 Palestinian refugees in/from Syria as a result of war-related incidents, down from 276 victims in 2018.

Entitled “Palestinians of Syria: Destruction and Reconstruction”, the report indicates that 29 victims were tortured to death in Syrian penal complexes. Another 20 Palestinians died as they were involved in armed fighting with pro-government forces.

The 280-page report provides fact-based data and statistics about the number of victims and detainees among the Palestinians of Syria.

As figures in the report, the number of victims and detainees shrunk back in 2019 compared to previous years.



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The report said that as many as 4,013 Palestinian refugees from Syria died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the bloody conflict in March 2011 until the end of 2019.

The report also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in displacement camps across and outside the Syrian territories.

At the same time, the study provides a detailed account of the violations perpetrated against the Palestinians of Syria in their quest to seek asylum and on their way to Europe.

The data has been compiled by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers and researchers.

Hundreds of reports have also been released by the group on a daily basis in an attempt to draw the international community's attention to the abject state of affairs endured by PRS.

To download the report, please click here:

<http://actionpal.org.uk/ar/reports/special/victimsofdestruction.pdf>

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS team does its best to uphold the finest standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footages, and sworn affidavits are taken directly from the fighting scene across a myriad



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of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS role as a human rights overseer.

In another development, a number of migrants taking shelter on the Greek island of Chios have rallied outside of the Migration Agency to protest the crackdowns and hostile policies adopted by the Greek authorities against asylum-seekers.

Reporting from Greece, an AGPS reporter said a number of migrants, including Palestinians fleeing war-torn Syria, lifted banners urging the Greek government to refrain from its oppressive measures and hard-hitting policies regarding asylum seekers' demands for visas and humanitarian asylum.

The protesters further called on the Greek authorities to release all migrants from custody.

Recently, activists warned of the arbitrary refoulement decisions, rejections of asylum applications, and closure of migrant facilities by the Greek authorities in an attempt to crackdown on asylum seekers.

A few months earlier, the Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection issued a decision to evacuate all buildings housing migrant residents who have received visas or subsidiary protection cards in Greece since 2017.

The Ministry said the eviction should be carried out no later than April 2020.



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The decision has resulted in dozens of families, including Palestinian refugee families, being homeless.

Activists said the move dovetails the country's attempt to rein in the influx of migrants and overcrowdings on its islands.

Palestinian refugees who have fled war-stricken zones to Greece have been denied their rights to visas and prevented from accessing vital facilities.