



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



"Draft Evasion Increasingly Reported by Palestine Liberation Army in Syria"

- Palestinian Orphans Left on Their Own in War-Torn Syria
- AGPS: 18,400 Palestinian Refugees Sheltered in Deraa City
- 62 Palestinian Residents of Deraa Forcibly Disappeared in Syria Prisons

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Latest Developments

The number of youths attempting to elude regime-imposed military service with pro-regime armed groups in Syria, including the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), has gone up.

Private sources that spoke with AGPS on condition of anonymity attributed the increasing evasion to the psychological stress and mistreatment inflicted on conscripts in the war-ravaged country.

In recently-disclosed testimonies, a number of breakaways revealed how their food and personal belongings have been stolen by high-ranking officers. Conscripts have also been subjected to poor hygiene and medical neglect. Volunteers have had their salaries abruptly lowered.

Palestinian refugees who joined the pro-regime battalions in Syria have been enduring serious crackdowns and abuses. Many of them said they have been forced to carry out exhausting personal chores for government officers against their will and under threat of punishment. Even those who have had their security files worked out have been involved in forced labor.

The conscripts' families continue to urge the Syrian regime to lay off their relatives who have served in the army for over five years.

Earlier this year, the Syrian regime announced its intent to seize the property of military dodgers, in reference to people eluding government-imposed obligation to serve in the military forces.



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Brigadier-General Ilyas Beitar said draft evaders aged 42 and above will have their property and money confiscated. An exception will be made to those who paid 8,000 USD as a fine.

The Syrian government continues to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to 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.

Along similar lines, vulnerable groups, including Palestinian orphans, taking shelter in displacement camps across war-ravaged Syria continue to struggle for survival.

AGPS has kept record of the death of over 250 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria.

Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare. For scores of Palestinian refugee children the mother/father is the sole breadwinner.

Parents have raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among schoolchildren and university



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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.

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.

In another development, some 18,400 Palestinian refugees are taking shelter in the southern Syrian city of Deraa, according to statistics by AGPS, UNRWA, and GAPAR.

The list includes 6,516 Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa Camp, 4,295 in AlMuziereeb town, 1,764 in Gilin town, 839 in Saham, 835 in Tel Shehab, and 818 in AlMahatta in Deraa AlBalad. Another 3,333 refugees are scattered across the city's suburbs.



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In the meantime, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 62 Palestinian refugees sheltered in Daraa Camp, south of Syria, from March 2011 until mid-November 2021.

Three Palestinian residents of Daraa Camp were also tortured to death in Syrian state jails, where over 620 Palestinian refugees have also died under torture since the outburst of the bloody warfare.

Field reporters believe the real number to be far higher due to the government's reticence to reveal the names and fates of Palestinian detainees and the families' fears to disclose their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

The list of victims includes activists, volunteers, medics, engineers, academics, journalists, university students, and artists.

According to data by AGPS, 1,797 Palestinian refugees, among them children, women and elderly refugees, have been enduring unknown fates in Syrian government lock-ups.

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

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to disclose the condition and whereabouts of Palestinian refugees held in its penitentiaries.