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## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Russia Digs Up Graves in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria in Search of Dead Israeli Spy"

- Swedish Embassy in Lebanon: Funds Needed to Rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp
- Mortars Hit AlMuzeireeb Town
- Palestinian Scholars Push For Humanitarian Assistance of Palestinians North of Syria
- Palestinian Refugee Mahmoud AlSaabi Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for 10<sup>th</sup> Year



## **Latest Developments**

Russian forces in Syria have spent the past weeks excavating a cemetery in a refugee camp in search of the body of a prominent former Israeli spy, according to Israeli sources

Russians have been digging up graves in Yarmouk, a Palestinian refugee camp near Damascus, to retrieve the bodies of two Israeli soldiers and well-known spy Eli Cohen, who was hanged in Syria's capital in 1965.

An object believed to have belonged to Cohen was recently transferred to Israel after being found in Syria, according to a television report Tuesday that claimed a "dramatic development" was made in the search for the executed agent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed to the i24NEWS channel that searches were underway for Cohen's body, but would not comment on the belonging thought to have been Cohen's.

His office later denied the news about Cohen's item, calling it, "false," though he did not reject that detail when interviewed by the network.

Quoting an unnamed Syrian government source, the Israeli network said the item could be a document or an article of Cohen's clothing and that it was handed over to Israel by Russia.

The Syrian source quoted in the report also said Syria and Russia, which backs the Assad regime in the Syrian civil war, were at odds



over what to demand from Israel in return for information on Cohen's remains.

Cohen infiltrated the top levels of Syria's political leadership in the years before the 1967 Six Day War. He was put on trial and executed by the Syrian government for espionage on May 18, 1965, after he breached the Syrian government under the alias Kamel Amin Thaabet for four years.

In another development, the Swedish embassy said following a visit to Yarmouk Camp that resources are insufficient to cover the residents' basic needs despite generous contributions by Sweden and other donor parties.

The Embassy said in a Facebook statement that Yarmouk Camp, once a bustling home to 160,000 Palestinians, is struggling with difficult living conditions inflicted by the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones.

It added that 200 children below the age of 15 live in the camp and continue to attend classes despite the enormous challenges they continue to face.

Meanwhile, three mortar shells have slammed into AlMuzeireeb town, where violent clashes broke out between the regime forces and opposition gunmen.

Fighters from the Fourth Division fired mortars, after injuries and deaths were reported among its gunmen.



Nearly 1,700 Palestinian families are taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb.

In another development, the Association of Palestine Scholars in Syria called for boosting support to Palestinian refugees in northern Syria.

This came in an event held by the Association on the occasion of the International Jerusalem Day, held in Atama, in the northern Syrian province of Idlib.

The Association's Chairman Muadh AlSukheita told news outlets that Palestinian refugees sheltered in northern Syria are committed to their right to return to their homeland and to Jerusalem city, home to the third holiest site in Islam—AlAqsa Mosque.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud AlSaabi has been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons for the tenth consecutive year.

Mahmoud was arrested by Syrian security forces at his home in AlRaml Camp, in Latakia, on August 16, 2011.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run prisons, among them 110 women.