

## التقرير اليومي الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

#### Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

#### SUNDAY 17-01-2016

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# "AGPS Issues a Press Release Condemns UNRWA's Recent Aid Cuts"



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

- PLA conscript killed in battlefront in Syria.
- Al-Nusra Front hints its non-withdrawal from Al-Yarmouk Camp, and proceeds to discuss the Yarmouk Issue.
- Military parade of opposition in Yalda Town, and news about forming a new armed faction conscripts Palestinian fighters.
- Palestine Charity Association organizes run racing in Khan Eshieh Camp.
- Syrian Security still arrests the Palestinian refugee "Mohammad Nimr" for three years.
- Lebanese Authorities commit violations against Palestinian families who had reunion appointments in European Embassies in Beirut.
- Palestinian-Syrians in Denmark start collecting donations to help their families back in Khan Eshieh Camp.

Email: Reports@actionpal.org Mobile: 00447447423737

Phone: 00442084530919 00442084530994



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#### **AGPS**

The AGPS has condemned, in a press release issued yesterday, the systematic policy of the UNRWA towards the Palestinian refugees weather those of Lebanon or who were displaced from Syria, and inveighed the cuts of aid and other services, the health services in particular.

The AGPS mentioned that, it has been following closely the policies of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for the Palestinian Refugees, of the gradual reduction of relief aid specifically, weather of the Palestinian-Lebanese or Palestinian-Syrians, which started by the cut of financial and food aid of 1100 families, and stopping the housing benefit of Palestinian-Syrians in Lebanon, and reduced the services of education sector and recently the health sector which affected all the Palestinians in Lebanon.



Accordingly, the AGPS condemns this unfair policy which does not take into account the harsh living and social conditions of refugees who already suffer from marginalization and deprivation of social rights, and the right to work in particular.



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The statement has warned of harming the refugees' rights which are stated in the resolution of establishing the UNRWA, and called for the continuation of its work, considering it as "an international major witness of the Palestinian Nakba".

In its press release; the AGPS held the UNRWA full responsibility regarding the deterioration of health and social conditions of refugees as a result of such decisions. The AGPS demanded to relief the needy Palestinians in Lebanon quickly and keep up until they return back to their home land in Palestine.

#### **VICTIMS**

The Lieutenant "Yousuf Wahied Qasim" from Al-Nayrab Camp, a conscript in PLA, was announced dead due to the clashes occurred in Syria. This incident raises the total number of Palestinian victims of PLA to 154 who were documented by the AGPS.



#### RECENT UPDATES

Al-Nusra Front hinted that it would not withdraw from the southern area of Damascus capital of Syria, this comes after accusing the Assad regime of emptying the area from civilians and opposition as well.

Al-Nusra Front called for the armed opposition groups to stop the internal fighting and unite again, admitting its own "mistakes committed"

Email: Reports@actionpal.org - Tel: +442084530919 - Fax: +442084530994 - Mob: +447447423737



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in the last period", the statement mentioned. While an eyewitness assured that Al-Nusra Front has sent messages to the prayers during Friday Pray that it would never withdraw from inside the Yarmouk Camp, and will "fight to the last minute".

"Ahmad Majdalani", member of the executive committee of PLO, held, few days ago, a meeting with Palestinian factions in which they discussed the future framework of operating inside the Yarmouk Camp after ISIS' evacuation.

In a related context, the "Popular Committee for People of Yarmouk Camp" held a founding meeting in which they invited Palestinian and Syrian figures, to discuss the after-ISIS situation to be inside the camp.

Forming work groups and dividing the camp into sectors to facilitate the rehabilitation and reconstruction processes, letting inhabitants in and out the camp, following up the detainees and missing people cases, and providing relief to needy families, are the points were agreed upon during the meeting, according to officals.

This comes at time of wide debate among people regarding the truth about ISIS and Al-Nusra's withdrawal from the Yarmouk Camp and the possible handing over to the Assad regime and its militias.

Meanwhile, pro-opposition social media outlets published photos show a military parade in Yalda and Babbila Towns done by Palestinian armed groups believed to be from the Yarmouk Camp, during which, a new military faction formation was announced. The AGPS could not validate the images.



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Moving to Damascus Suburb, under the title of "The Martyrs' Week", youth committee in "Palestine Charity Association" organised a run race in Khan Eshieh Camp, for all age groups, where about 450 racers participated in, according to them.

In a different context, the Syrian Security continues arresting the Palestinian refugee "Mohammad Fahmi Nime" since April 2013. Mohammad, Fatah Movement member born in 1963, was arrested at Al-Yarmouk entrance checkpoint with no further information about his fate so far.

It is noted that many Palestinians and members of Palestinian factions are still unaccounted for inside the prisons of the Syrian regime, and many of them were tortured to death.

#### **LEBANON**

"Insults and cursing and intended humiliation and delay to miss the interview and go back home disappointed" with this words, the Palestinian Tasnim.Sh (nickname) summed up her suffering in the Lebanese border point while she was trying to attend an interview in European Embassy in Beirut to reunite with her husband, but the Lebanese security members wasted her dreams of soon reunion.

Tasnim was exposed to cursing and insults alongside with many other Syrian refugees who were blocked out for hours for weak pretences such as shifting the officer-in-charge and so on, turning deaf ears to her



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entreaties as she escorted her children and she might miss her appointment.

"It is all about the mood of the officer" Tasnim expalined, indicating that later she lost her interview appointment while she was still at the border point, to end up going back home at night paying a lot of money for nothing.



Tasnim assured to the AGPS that it was not easy at all to set the embassy's appointment, and now she has to start again and to suffer once more to get another appointment which could be after three months at least, bearing in mind that there are no guaranties not to be stopped again at the borders.

It should be noted that all the reunion arrangements should be done in another country as almost all European Embassies closed in Damascus. Knowing that Palestinian Syrians are not allowed to travel almost to any country at all, they are being hindered by the Lebanese Authorities although they have sufficient proofs about their intention to reunion with their families in Europe and not settling in Lebanon whatsoever.



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#### **DENMARK**

A group of Palestinian-Syrians who fled Syria after the war, initiated to launch a donation campaign to support their fellow relatives back in Khan Eshieh Camp in Southern Damascus.

According to social media sources; an amount of 3,000 SYP had been distributed to around 100 Palestinian families each in Khan Eshieh camp, and "this small amount comes as a start that may encourage others to do the same and get better results soon".

It should be noted that, many initiatives had been launched over the course of last months in Europe to support the Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. More than 71.200 Palestinian-Syrian refugees had arrived to Europe according to the AGPS' statistics.

#### Palestinians of Syria in numbers and Statistics until 16 January 2016

- 15,500 Palestinian Syrian refugees in Jordan, 42,500 Palestinian Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and 6,000 refugees in Egypt, according to the UNRWA's statistics till July 2015.
- More than 71,200 Palestinian Syrian refugees have arrived Europe until the end of December 2015.
- The Yarmouk Camp: still under siege imposed by the Syrian Regime's Army and PFLP-GC (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command), continued for 917 days respectively. In addition, power cuts continued for more than 1006



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days, water cut for 495 days. The number of victims due to the siege has reached to 184 victims.

- Al Sbeina Camp: Syrian Regime's Army still preventing the residents from returning back to their houses for 801 days respectively.
- Handarat Camp: All of its residents have left the camp for 994 days after the Syrian Opposition Groups controlled it.
- Dara'a Camp: Running water cut continues for 655 days, and 70% of its buildings were distroyed.
- Jarmana, AL-SaiedaZainab, Al-Raml, Al-Aedein Homs and AedeinHama: A relatively quiet situations in light of the economic crises.
- Khan Al Sheih Camp: Roads linking the camp to the city center are still closed except for Zakia-Khan EShieh road.