



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



"AlNeirab Camp Residents Caught Between the Hammer and Barrel"

- Syrian Authorities Order Halt on Property-Theft in Yarmouk Camp
- Debris Clearance ongoing South of Damascus
- Palestinians from Syria Rally Outside of UNRWA Office in Amman
- Palestinian Refugee Bashir AlShaabi Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

The number of youths migrating from AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, has soared.

Over recent years, over 3,000 Palestinian young men aged between 17 and 45 years also have fled the camp. Hundreds of others have been forced to join pro-regime battalions, including Liwaa AlQuds to help feed their starved families.

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have also increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp. Drug distribution is often carried out by children aged below 18 and members of cash-strapped and vulnerable families who are exploited by illicit drug trafficking networks which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

Daily scenes of destruction and bloodshed in Syria forced dozens of helpless civilians, among them children, to consume drugs and sniff glue, among other life-threatening substances, as a means to get over the trauma inflicted by the unabated warfare. Drug use, which starts as a way to escape, quickly makes their life worse.

AGPS documented the death of 181 of Palestinian residents of AlNeirab Camp, in Aleppo, all the way through Syria's eight-year conflict.

Recently, several refugee families have made their way from the camp to Turkey, in an attempt to reach Greek seashores, before getting to safety to a European country.



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AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.

Meanwhile, security forces in charge of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Damascus, have given instructions to end property- theft from abandoned houses in Yarmouk Camp.



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Human rights sources said Syrian authorities issued a decision to chase down property-thieves and called on the residents to report any such cases.

In the meantime, Damascus authorities have been removing debris from the residential alleyways and access roads of AlTadhamun neighborhoods.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus are living in distress due to the arbitrary arrest sweeps and crackdowns perpetuated by the Syrian security forces.

Palestinian refugees have been subjected to movement crackdowns and denied free access out of and into southern Damascus towns.

Over 5,000 Palestinian refugees taking shelter south of Damascus have been grappling with dire conditions due to the price leap, steep rental fees, and forced military conscription with pro-government forces.

In the meantime, dozens of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have joined a vigil held outside of the office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to protest their dire humanitarian conditions and precarious legal status.

The refugees lifted banners calling for their basic rights and for urgent humanitarian action to save their children's fate.

UNRWA officials reportedly noted down the refugees' demands and pledged to take serious measures in response to their appeals.



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The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Bashir Mohamed AlShaabi, nicknamed Abu Safoun, has been secretly held in Syria's state-run prisons for the 8th consecutive year.



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The refugee, a resident of AlAyedeen camp in Hums, was arrested on February 23, 2014 on his way to Mesfat area, in Hums.

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).

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.



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