



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Drug Trafficking Reported in AlNeirab Camp, pro-Regime Militias Held Accountable

- UN: 1,200 Families in Palestinian Refugee Camp of Yarmouk Struggling for Survival
- Palestinian Woman Hoda AlRoba Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime for 9th Year
- Palestinian Refugees in Syria Denounce Racist Attacks in Greece



Latest Development

Reports of drug consumption and trafficking have increasingly emerged in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

Over recent years, members of Liwaa AlQuds armed group, affiliated with the Syrian regime, have been accused of running networks for drug trafficking and prostitution in AlNeirab displacement camp and adjacent areas.

A number of civilians who spoke to AGPS on condition of anonymity said Liwaa AlQuds officers have been blackmailing prisoners' and wanted persons' wives. A girl was recently harassed by the militia.

Liwaa AlQuds has also been accused of transferring cannabis, tramadol and captagon to the camp. Scores of militiamen who were forced into military conscription with regime battalions consume drugs to overcome the terrifying scenes of bloodshed.

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.



In another development, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Syria Amany Michael-Ebye stated: “Some 1200 families have returned to Yarmouk; they live amidst rubble and possibly around unexploded devices, in very dire conditions.”

“Eleven years of conflict, displacement, soaring inflation, loss of livelihoods and now two years of COVID-19 all make their life untenable. UNRWA assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria and in neighbouring countries is often their only lifeline and their last source of support”, said Amany.

“The financial challenges that UNRWA faces restrict our ability to truly respond to the needs. Our staff are under tremendous pressure to deliver critical services, with restricted resources,” Amany added.

This came at the VI Brussels conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and of the Region”, where the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reiterated its call to support Palestine refugees in Syria and in neighboring countries

There are nearly 440,000 Palestine refugees who still live in Syria and 50,000 between Jordan and Lebanon, having fled the conflict in search of safety. Almost all of them live under the poverty line and face immense daily challenges, including difficult access to sufficient food to feed themselves and their families. Most of them live on less than US\$ 2 per day.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said: “The Palestine refugees in Syria live in very dire conditions. After 11



years of conflict, some have returned to their destroyed homes because they can no longer afford rent outside. These refugees need schools, clinics and social protection.”

Since the start of the conflict, many UNRWA installations inside Syria, such as schools and health centres, have either been totally destroyed or sustained severe damage. Forty per cent of UNRWA classrooms were lost and almost 25 per cent of the Agency’s health centres are currently unusable. UNRWA in Syria has also lost 19 staff members during the 11-year conflict.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Hoda Shahada AlRoba has been secretly held in Syria’s state-run prisons for the 9th consecutive year.

Hoda was arrested as she attempted to enter bread to starved families in the then-blockaded Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees in 2013. She disappeared at a checkpoint pitched near the main entrance to the camp.

AGPS data indicates that over 1,800 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of 633 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.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syrian to Greece said they have been subjected to racist violations by Greek police and nationals.

A few days ago, a driver shot and injured a Palestinian refugee in his head. Eye-witnesses pointed the finger at the extremist neo-Nazi right-wing group called Golden Dawn, involved in racist violence and hate crimes.

Greece and the European Union should launch immediate fact-finding probes into such crimes and pressurize authorities to take a firm stance in response to race-motivated violence against migrants fleeing war and economic hardship in their countries.