No. 3557



التقرير اليومى

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



Displaced Families Denounce Movement Crackdown on Yarmouk Camp

- Resident of AlNeirab Camp Released from Syria Custody
- Palestinian Refugee Wins International Competition
- Child's Dead Body Spotted in Greece, Weeks after 8 Palestinians Drowned at Sea



Latest Development

The Syrian security forces have tightened grip on the main entrances to Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian Refugees, in Rif Dimashq, blocking civilians' free access out of an into the area.

A new batch of checkpoint established a couple of weeks ago have also hindered the entry of reconstruction workers and companies.

Over recent months, Syrian authorities have granted over 4,000 permits to families wishing to return to the camp and retrieve their property. At the same time, more than 1,800 permits have been issued for house reconstruction in the camp. The residents said the permits are null and avoid as authorities continue to block their defacto implementation on the ground.

The unabated warfare has had disastrous fallouts on Palestinian refugee camps across the Syrian territories. Palestinians who remained in Yarmouk or returned to the camp sometime later have been struggling for survival, in an area that has been severely affected by the deadly hostilities.

Before the crisis started in 2011, Yarmouk was a bustling home to almost 30 percent of the Palestine refugee population in Syria.

Today, the weight of displacement, hardship and the loss of loved ones add to the difficult living conditions in Yarmouk.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Abdo AlBash, born in 1974 in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, was released from a prison in Syria.



Abdo was detained last week by Syrian security forces over allegations of giving assistance to young men wishing to illegally leave the war-torn country.

Abdo's friends and relatives denied the allegations, saying the man has been known for his discipline and good reputation.

They slammed the Syrian security forces for making up counterfeit accusations to cover up real smugglers involved in such illegal practices.

The number of Palestinian youths migrating from displacement camps and government-held zones across war-torn Syria has soared.

Recently, scores of refugee families have made their way from their camps and shelters to Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt. Dozens of Palestinian refugee families fled Syria to Lebanon while scores of others crossed to Turkey from Idlib in a trip costing up to 1,500 per a single person.

Many of those who headed to Erbil fled to Turkey through the Iraqi or Iranian borderlands. Several youths have fled conscription in the war-torn country.

Poverty rates have reached a zenith in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria due to the sharp decrease in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound compared to the USD and the refugees' lack of access to the local labor market.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Abdul Aziz Ahmad AlSaleh won the first place in the International Challenge Championship in



kickboxing (K1 style, 60 kg), which was held in the Jalaa Sports Hall in Damascus.

11 players from various nationalities and another 11 from the Syrian national team participated in the competition, held under the supervision of referees from Iraq, Jordan and the UAE.

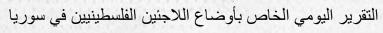
Hundreds of displaced Palestinian refugees in/from Syria have achieved success stories, despite the traumatic upshots wrought by the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction across the embattled Syrian territories.

This includes scores of refugee students who have obtained the highest scores at their academic institutions; hundreds of refugee sportsmen/sportswomen who snatched the first places in regional and international competitions; dozens of artists who received renowned literary awards for their products and performances; and several housewives who turned trauma into a space of creativity.

In the meantime, the body of a child, estimated to have been 12 to 15 years old, was recovered from the sea near Greece's Cycladic island of Iraklia on Friday.

The remains, which were in an advanced state of decay, were spotted by a passing sailing boat. With the assistance of the local emergency services, the body was removed to the local health center, where an autopsy will be carried out.

Port officials are investigating the incident. Preliminary investigation indicates the child is among the 16 migrants, among





them eight Palestinians from Syria, who died at sea between December 22-25 off the islands of Paros and Folegandros.

On January 08, the body of a three-year old child was recovered from the Aegean sea. A couple of days earlier, the bodies of a man, woman, and two girls were spotted off Naxos and Paros islands. Several other migrants have been unaccounted for.

So far, at least 72 Palestinian refugees from Syria drowned onboard migrant vessels, fleeing war-torn Syria.

Scores of others died of cold on route to EU destinations.

A number of casualties breathed their last off the Libyan seashore on way to Italy while others sunk in Marmara waters as they tried to reach the Greek coast. Dozens of migrants have gone missing.