

21-11-2018

No. 2209

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS: Palestine Child Refugees Traumatized in War-Torn Syria"

- War-Related Incidents Claim Lives of 241 Palestinian Children in Syria
- Displaced Palestinian Children North of Syria Launch Cry for Help
- Syria's Ministerial Council Tasks Damascus Authorities with Reconstructing Yarmouk Camp



## **Latest Developments**

A report issued by AGPS on the International Children's Day said the bloody warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of the Syrian territories.

Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating disorders, and intense fear have all been among the symptoms with which Palestinian children have been diagnosed after they lost their homes, have had their parents killed in the war, underwent limb amputation, and witnessed daily scenes of death and destruction.



AGPS calls on all international institutions and NGOs, namely UNICEF and UNRWA, to take serious measures in order to provide Palestinian children with the physical and moral protection quite urgently needed at such turbulent times.



Palestinian children from Syria who fled with their parents to neighboring countries have also faced severe psychological breakdowns owing to the perpetual state of dislodgement, dispossession, and homelessness they have been facing.

AGPS has documented the death of 241 Palestinian children from Syria due to war-related incidents, according to statistics until October 20, 2018.

Shelling took away the lives of 123 children while sniper bullets claimed the lives of 15.

11 children were, meanwhile, fatally gunned down; two children died under torture; 21 others drowned at sea; 22 died in car blasts; and three more children were pronounced dead as a result of the blockade and lack of medical care.

The list also includes a Palestinian child who was fatally burned, another who choked to death, one more who died in a run-over accident, and another who was killed after he was kidnapped. A Palestinian child died of unknown reasons.

Meanwhile, Palestinian children who were forcibly deported with their families to Deir Ballout Camp, north of Syria, appealed to the United Nations, UNRWA, and human rights NGOs to lend them a hand in the poverty-stricken area.

In a letter to the UN, the displaced children said they have spent six years of their childhood times under a tough blockade, which had been imposed on Yarmouk Camp, before they were forcibly



deported to Deir Ballout, where they have been taking refuge in ramshackle tents.

The children added that they have been denied their basic rights, particularly their right to education, medical care, and relief assistance.



"Aren't we entitled to live as happily and serenely as the rest of the world does?" the letter read. "Don't we have the right to live in secure homes and enjoy the right to education and entertainment? Or we are doomed to endure unending misery?"

The children appealed for an urgent response by the UN-run bodies and concerned human rights institutions, saying serious efforts should be made to save hundreds of children who have been shivering of cold and suffering severe trauma before it is too late.

Meanwhile, a decision issued by Syria's Council of Ministers during its weekly session, held on November 11, tasked local authorities in Damascus with rehabilitating infrastructure and destroyed facilities in Yarmouk Camp so as to pave the way for the safe return of the displaced residents.



Minister of Local Administration and Environment Hussein Makhlouf said the decision aims to task Damascus governorate with missions previously undertaken by Yarmouk municipality in an attempt to boost reconstruction plans and facilitate civilians' return to their homes at the soonest time possible. A new roadmap will be drafted by local authorities to that very end.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched on April 19. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 80% of buildings in Yarmouk have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.