



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

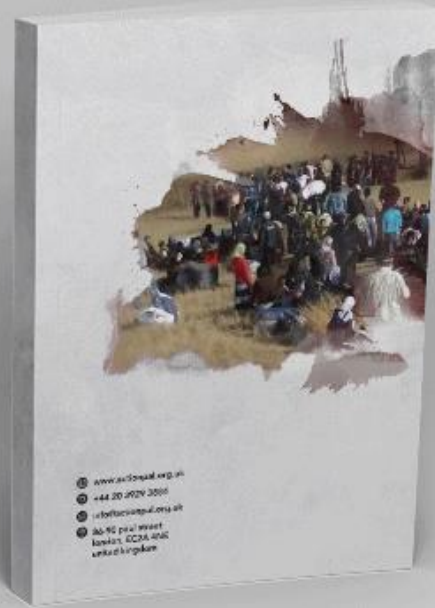
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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS Issues New Documentary Report about Palestinians from Syria in Turkey"

- Palestinian Refugee Released after 5 Years in Syrian Gov't Prison
- Yarmouk's New Reconstruction Plan Canceled by Syrian Authorities
- Telecommunications Network Cut off in AlNeirab Camp
- WHO Contributes US\$ 5 Million to Palestine Refugee Agency

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Latest developments

The Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) issued a new report entitled “The Legal Situation of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Turkey”.

The report includes statistics about the Palestinian refugee community from Syria in Turkey and their ambivalent legal status.

The report underscores Palestinians’ lack of access to the local labor market, movement restrictions, and difficulties in obtaining visas and temporary protection cards.

It further sheds light on the legal hurdles faced by Palestinians from Syria who illegally entered/live in Istanbul and the impact of government crackdowns on their humanitarian condition.

The new report further highlights the absence of international protection mechanisms for Palestinians from Syria in Turkey and the failure of UNRWA and the UNHCR to live up to their moral, legal, and humanitarian responsibilities regarding the refugees.

Recently, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Turkey have expressed concerns over their deteriorating condition particularly in light of the new movement clampdown imposed across Turkish provinces as part of anti-coronavirus measures.

A large number of companies, factories, and shops shut their doors for fear of further COVID-19 contaminations. Several Palestinian families have lost their sole sources of income as a result.



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Palestinian refugees continue to urge the concerned parties to work on toning down their calamitous state of affairs in light of the socio-economic crisis and health setback wrought by the global coronavirus epidemic.

In another development, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC), Adnan Fathi Othman, was released on Monday, August 24, from a Syrian government prison, where he had been held since 2013.

Adnan's brother was killed some six years ago as he fought alongside PFLP-GC, affiliated with the Syrian government.

Over 1,790 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syrian government dungeons since the outburst of deadly hostilities.

AGPS also documented the death of over 600 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



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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.

Meanwhile, conflicting reports have emerged about the adaptation of the new plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 29, 2020 to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Palestinian lawyer Nour AlDeen Salman, who strongly condemned the plan, said two decisions issued last week ruled for canceling the new reconstruction plan and adopting the old plan approved in 2004.

Director-General of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Ambassador Anwar Abdul Hadi, said the Syrian government and Damascus authorities will not adopt a new reconstruction plan in Yarmouk Camp.

Palestinian refugees continue to voice their firm rejection of the new organizational plan put forth by Damascus Governorate to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp.

Tension has been running high in the area as thousands of refugees continue to rail against the proposed plan, amid growing fears that their homes and property will be removed from the new plan.



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Recently, AGPS has called on the Syrian authorities in Damascus to re-examine the new organizational plan put forth by Damascus governorate to rehabilitate Yarmouk Camp and to rather implement the old plan which was approved in 2004.

In a statement issued last month, AGPS said plans that do not take into account Palestinians' inalienable rights make part of underway conspiracies to further displace the Palestinian people and destroy displacement camps as living witnesses to their refugee plight.

The statement said the new organizational plan will remarkably change the demographic and architectural identity of the camp. Several buildings and facilities will be removed, which will lead to a mass displacement of refugee families and a further deterioration of their humanitarian condition.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees taking shelter in AlNeirab camp, in Aleppo, north of Syria, denounced the frequent blackouts in the telecommunications and internet network.

An AGPS correspondent attributed the blackout to an explosion in the main gas pipeline in Rif Dimashq.

On Monday, telecommunications and internet access were completely cut off across Syria as an explosion struck a gas pipeline in a Damascus suburb, causing a huge fire and cutting off electricity throughout Syria, state media reported, citing the country's electricity and oil ministers.



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The state news agency SANA quoted Electricity Minister Zuhair Kharbotli as saying the explosion on the “Arab Gas Pipeline” occurred after midnight Sunday between the northeastern Damascus suburbs of Adra and Dumair.

He said it was the sixth time the pipeline was hit. Technicians are working to fix the problems and electricity should be restored in the coming hours, he said.

Ghanem, the oil minister, said the pipeline was attacked in this same desert area six times in recent years. He said it pumps some 7 million cubic meters of natural gas to power stations that supply much of Syria with electricity.

In the meantime, the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the World Health Organization (WHO), powered by the United Nations Foundation, recently contributed US\$ 5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency’s emergency responses to COVID-19 pandemic in Gaza, West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

“I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to WHO colleagues both at the Headquarters and Regional Office for East Mediterranean, as well as the UN Foundation for this generous contribution to support the Agency’s ongoing effort to respond to COVID-19,” said Dr Akihito Seita, Director of Health of UNRWA.

“This contribution enables our continued efforts in all five fields including procurement of medicines in urgent need,



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hospitalization support, isolation and quarantine centers support and provision of personal protective equipment to our frontline health staff at 141 health centres, in order to protect some 5.6 million Palestine refugees that we serve,” Dr. Seita added.

The COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for WHO, supports the WHO-led global effort to track and understand the spread of the virus; to ensure patients get the care they need and frontline workers get essential supplies and information; and to accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatments for all who need them.

“More than half a million people from over 100 countries have stepped up to support the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund,” said Elizabeth Cousens, President & CEO of the UN Foundation. “With this disbursement, their incredible generosity will help protect vulnerable refugee populations from COVID-19. The sustained solidarity shown by people around the world is remarkable, and I am proud to see the UN Foundation support the Agency’s vital work at this critical time.”

To date, the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund has raised over US\$ 233 million from more than 565,000 individuals, companies, and philanthropies in over 100 countries. More than US\$ 191 million has already been disbursed to WHO and its partner agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNICEF and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI).



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The Fund remains the first, fastest and only way for companies, organizations and individuals to contribute directly to critical global response efforts led by WHO. Allocation decisions for the use of the Fund's resources are made by WHO in line with the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.