



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

27-02-2021

No. 3145

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Medics Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime"

- Military Branch in Syria Tasked with Monitoring Security File in Yarmouk Camp
- UN: 86% of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan in Debt
- Palestinian Refugee Muayad Mohamed Goes Missing in Syria Displacement Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Mohamed Secretly Held in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

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Latest Developments

Palestinian medics and relief activists have been permanently targeted by the Syrian government forces on claims of assisting rival parties. Several paramedics and volunteers died under torture in government lock-ups.

According to doctor Omar Mheibash, the list of Palestinian medics who were tortured to death in Syrian government prisons includes: Surgeon Nizar Jawdat Kassab, from Yarmouk Camp; gynecologic physician Mahmoud Hamarna, from Yarmouk; Radi Saleh Abu Shakoush, from Khan AlSeih Camp; Yasser AlTarabulsi; anesthetist Maw'ed AlMaw'ed, activist Udai Qadoura, from the Palestine Charity Commission, and Mohamed Khaled Noufel, from Khan AlSheih Camp.

The list of missing medics includes general surgeon Hayel Kasem Hamid, aged 67. Hamid was a member of the General Surgery Department at AlAssad University Hospital. Palestinian neurosurgeon Alaa AlDeen Youssef and another Palestinian refugee—Malek Mohamed Youssef—also figure on the list. Youssef, a dentistry graduate, was kidnapped by the government forces from Damascus University on May 23, 2013.

Medical staff and structures in besieged Yarmouk Camp came under heavy shelling by the government squads. Dozens of doctors, pharmacists, and paramedics have been pronounced dead in the raging warfare, among them Ahmed Nawaf AlHassan and Khaled AlKhalidi. Dozens more were kidnapped and executed by ISIS.



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Relief activists Yahya Abdullah Hourani Abu Suhaib, Mohamed Areisha, Abu AlAbd Khalil, Bahaa AlAmin, Mustafa AlShar'an, and Firas AlNaji were also assassinated in Yarmouk Camp.

Several health centers went out of operation after ISIS crept into the camp in early April 2015.

In another development, the government-run military branch south of Damascus will take charge of the security file in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees and the adjacent neighborhood of AlHajar AlAswad.

Officers from the Fourth Division have removed a checkpoint pitched near the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp, unlocked a number of access roads, and started transferring security equipment outside the camp.

Before the eruption of the conflict in 2011, Yarmouk was home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees, making it the largest Palestine refugee community in Syria. Located eight kilometers from Damascus, it is one of three unofficial camps in Syria.

In December 2012, fierce clashes erupted in Yarmouk, causing numerous civilian casualties, severe damage to property and the displacement of thousands of Palestine refugees and Syrians. The camp was under siege from July 2013, drastically restricting the entry of commercial and humanitarian goods.

April 2015, when armed opposition groups captured over 60 per cent of the camp, containing over 90 per cent of the remaining



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civilian population. This not only made UNRWA unable to carry out any distributions inside Yarmouk but also displaced most of the remaining 18,000 Palestine refugees and other civilians to the neighbouring areas of Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham (YBB).

Almost all the remaining Palestine refugees left during the final government offensive for Yarmouk in April-May 2018, after which the government retook control of the camp.

UNRWA was able to return to the camp to conduct a needs assessment in October 2018. Of the 23 UNRWA premises in the camp and nearby Hajjar al Aswad, including 16 school buildings, all have been affected by the conflict.

Yarmouk was established in 1957. It occupies an area of 2.1 square kilometres to accommodate refugees who were scattering in mosques, schools and other public places. Over the years, the refugees improved their shelters and added more rooms to them. Before the conflict, the camp was crowded with cement block homes, and densely populated. Three main roads lined with shops and crammed with service taxis and minibuses ran through Yarmouk.

Now the camp is largely destroyed and contains just a few dozen families. These are mostly elderly Palestine refugees, who stayed throughout the siege and conflict. The Syrian government has indicated that Palestine refugees will be allowed to return to the camp in future.



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Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan are confronted with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, said UNRWA in a fact sheet entitled “Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021”.

According to UNRWA, 86% of PRS in Jordan are in debt and 17,800 PRS are in need of UNRWA cash assistance.

UNRWA said that in 2021, the Agency requires US\$ 318 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

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.

More than 2 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA live in Jordan.

There are ten recognized Palestine refugee camps throughout the country, which accommodate nearly 370,000 Palestine refugees. Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestine refugees of all of the UNWRA fields.



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The majority of Palestine refugees have sought humanitarian assistance in Jordan, where they continue to suffer from abject poverty and live in a precarious legal status.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Muayad Ahmad Mohamed disappeared from Jaramana Camp, in Rif Dimashq, on Friday.

His family continues to appeal for information about his condition and whereabouts.

333 Palestinian refugees, including 37 women and girls, have gone missing since the outbreak of the Syrian warfare. Most of those who have disappeared in the country are residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus.

Activists have accused pro-government militias of targeting Palestinians in arbitrary abduction sweeps carried out under the security guise. Scores of families have been blackmailed over the release of their missing relatives and have paid large sums of money to brokers, crooked lawyers, or government officials to get pieces of information about their conditions and whereabouts.

In the meantime, the family of Palestinian refugee Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamed, born in 1976, continues to appeal for information over their forcibly disappeared relative, who has been locked up in Syrian government jails since January 24, 2013.

A resident of Yarmouk Camp, the refugee was kidnapped from his workplace in Dumar area, in western Damascus.



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An ex-prisoner who was released from the Syrian air intelligence prison in Sumaria, in Damascus, said he last met him in November 2018.

AGPS documented the secret incarceration of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in Syrian state-run lock-ups, among them 108 women and girls.