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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinians in Syria Raise Concerns over Forced Military Conscription"

- Countries Pledge \$100 Million for UN Palestine Agency
- Displaced Palestinians Rally in Northern Syria over Trump's Pro-Israel Mideast Plan
- Palestinian Refugee Yehya Ahmad AlBash Secretly Detained in Syrian since 2013
- Education Center Launched in Qudsaya



Latest Developments

A state of panic has overwhelmed Palestinian refugees in Daraa, south of Syria, after the Syrian government forces tightened military grip around the city's alleyways in an attempt to hunt down youths for conscription.

A series of checkpoints has been pitched to chase down activists and conscripts. Young men aged between 18 and 42 have been arrested and forced to join the government military.

Those who have not yet volunteered for military service have been asked to jot down a note of commitment to turn themselves in to the recruitment division within a week's time. Those who do not follow such instructions risk to get arrested and forced to join the government army against their will.



Scores of Palestinian refugees were killed as they were placed at the forefront of pro-government battles in northern Syria. Also, over recent years, the Syrian government forces stepped up crackdowns and abduction sweeps against former opposition affiliates who signed reconciliation deals with the incumbent



regime, forcing them to fight alongside the government forces in northern Syria.

According to informed sources, a number of Palestinian recruits have been summoned to questioning by government officers and subjected to psycho-physical torture to force confession.

The recruits also said they have been forced to carry out exhausting personal chores for government officers against their will and under threat of punishment. Even those who have had their security files worked out have been involved in forced labor.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) received the support of the representatives of states and institutions at its annual international Pledging Conference held on 25 June in New York.

Representatives of states and institutions unanimously commended the Agency's role in preserving the rights and dignity of Palestine refugees and praised its staff members for their commitment in support of the human development of 5.4 million Palestine refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl stated, "Today in New York, we witnessed another remarkable mobilization and great generosity in support of UNRWA. I am deeply grateful for the trust of United Nations (UN) member states, for the pledges of more than US\$ 110 million, and for the commitment to the dignity and rights of Palestine refugees."



UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the President of the UN General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinoza, Commissioner-General Krähenbühl and numerous member states spoke about the centrality of Agency's role to the stability and development of the Middle East. Speakers referred to the invaluable contribution of UNRWA to the human development of the Palestine refugee population through education, health care, and economic empowerment.

The Conference was an opportunity for UNRWA to showcase the impact of its protection and assistance mandate on the lives of millions of Palestine refugees living in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza.

The UNRWA Commissioner-General stressed that the Agency's current financial situation will be particularly challenging for emergency operations in Gaza and Syria and for UNRWA schools across the region. Food for one million refugees in the Gaza Strip, as well as quality education to Palestine refugee children, but also essential cash assistance to over 400,000 people in Syria, will be severely affected if the Agency's financial requirements for 2019 are not covered.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees displaced from Yarmouk Camp, Khan Eshieh, and southern Damascus to northern Syria took to the streets of AlSadaka, Deir Ballout, AlMuhammadiya, and AlJazira refugee camps on Wednesday, protesting the US President Donald Trump's "Mideast peace deal", known as the "deal of the century", and the White House-led economic workshop in Bahrain.



The refugees stressed Palestinians' commitment to their right of return to their motherland and lifted banners condemning the US-Israeli attempts to wipe out Palestinians' land and rights.

The US-led workshop, which will be held in Bahrain's capital, Manama, on June 25-26, has drawn criticism from the Palestinians who say US President Donald Trump's peace plan is likely to be heavily weighted in favor of Israel and quash their aspirations for statehood in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.



While the precise outlines of Trump's draft plan - which he has branded the "deal of the century" - have yet to be revealed, Palestinian and Arab sources who have been briefed about it say it has abandoned the two-state solution.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Yehya Ahmad AlBash, born in 1960, has been incarcerated in Syrian government prisons for seven consecutive years.

Yehya was kidnapped by the government forces on October 5, 2012 and dragged to an unknown location. His fate and whereabouts remain mysterious.



AGPS documented the imprisonment of 1,758 Palestinian refugees, among them 108 women and girls, in Syrian government lock-ups.

In another development, first aid training courses were held by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society at the Palestine Health Center in Yalda town, south of Yarmouk Camp.

A number of Palestinian refugees displaced from Yarmouk Camp took part in the course, which aims to familiarize the Palestinian refugee community with the skills and tools needed in emergency situations.

