



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

documents
Arab countries



Hani Abbas

"E-Campaign Denounces Entry-Bans on Palestinian Refugees from Syria"

- UNRWA Denies Being Mandated to Resettle Palestine Refugees
- UNRWA Staff Member Honored in Syria's AlSabina Refugee Camp
- Palestinian Refugee Released from Syrian
- Palestinian Refugee Iyad Salah Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Government for 7th Year

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Latest Developments

Palestinian blogger from Syria Tghrid Dawas has embarked on an online campaign entitled “I am a refugee . . . I am a human being” in an attempt to underscore the heavy burden brought about by “the travel document” which Palestinians from Syria should obtain to gain access to another country.

The activist said Palestinians from Syria have been unable to reunite with their family members in Arab Gulf states or any other destination following travel bans slapped by governments under the guise of unrecognized refugee documents.



Taghrid Dawas, who fled Yarmouk Camp to Germany in 2014, said she has not met with her daughter and husband in Abu Dhabi ever since she leaved Yarmouk Camp. Following several attempts to reach out to the UAE embassy in Berlin over her family reunification demand, Taghrid gave up the endeavor as staff members kept telling her that the embassy does not recognize refugee documents.



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At the beginning of her campaign, Taghrid was seeking ways to mobilize support for her appeals to see her daughter Layan, whom she has not met for five years. Sometime later, Taghrid got in touch with activist Lama Salah, the mother of six-year-old Fayza who has been living in Dubai. Both activists agreed to speak up for thousands of Palestinian refugees who, just like them, have been torn apart from the warmth of family.

A number of Arab governments continue to ban the entry of Palestinian refugees holding travel documents issued in such countries as Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

A handful of such measures was opted for and put into effect by the Saudi authorities and the United Arab Emirates in an attempt to force the Palestinians to seek refuge outside of their territories.

Most of the Gulf countries along with Turkey and a number of Arab governments have outlawed granting visas to Palestinians with Syrian travel documents.

In 1955, the League of Arab States prohibited granting dual citizenship to Arab nationals and ruled that Palestinian refugees be not granted another Arab nationality to preserve his/her Palestinianhood. At the same time, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Iraqi authorities issued travel documents for Palestinian refugees in order to smooth their movement across the region.

In another development, UNRWA said on Thursday that migration and resettlement of Palestine refugees do not make part of its official mandate.



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UNRWA's statement was issued in a response to a Wednesday vigil held by the Youth Commission of Palestinians of Syria outside of the UNRWA office in Beirut after the agency's director refused to meet with refugee families wishing to gain humanitarian asylum in other destinations pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.

UNRWA said migration and resettlement issues fall outside of the Agency's mission, saying an official response in this regard will be sent early next week to the commission.



UNRWA stressed its commitment to tackle all files having to do with its allotted services for Palestine refugees as mandated by the UN.

Earlier this month, Palestinian refugees from Syria joined a rally held outside of the Australian embassy to demand humanitarian asylum and safe access to European countries pending their return to their homeland. Hundreds of Palestinian refugees, waving Palestinian and Canadian flags, also gathered outside of the Canadian Embassy in Beirut, requesting asylum in the North American country.



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There are tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and their descendants in Lebanon. Most of them live in squalid camps with no access to public services, limited employment opportunities and no rights to ownership.

In the meantime, UNRWA paid tribute to Palestinian refugee Khaled Mahmoud, the Agency's staff member in AlSabina Camp for Palestine refugees, over his serious commitment over the past 36 years in promoting environmental health and awareness in Syria-based Palestinian refugee camps.

The celebration was held on September 26 in AlSabina Health Center. UNRWA's medical chief Dr. Khaled Hamdan and head of UNRWA's health program Dr. Tayseer AlSabagh, along with the director of AlSabina's Health Center, were in attendance.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Mohamed Mustafa, from Khan Dannun Camp, was released on September 27, 2019, from a Syrian government detention center.



AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run penitentiaries, where hundreds of others have also been fatally tortured.



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Along the same line, Palestinian refugee Iyad Saleh has been forcibly disappeared by the Syrian security forces for the seventh year running.

Iyad, a resident of the Hama-based AlAyedeen refugee camp, was kidnapped on August 20, 2012 at a government-held checkpoint in Hama.

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.