



***"Khan Dannoun Camp between Neutrality and Raging War in Syria"***



**Action Group for Palestinians of Syria – “Exclusive”**

*People of Khan Dannoun refugee camp, from the beginning of the Syrian crisis, chose positive neutrality like the rest of Palestinian camps along the Syrian geographical area. They were able to maintain this option despite the passing of more than three years of conflict in Syria.*

*However, the deterioration of the security situation in the areas adjacent to the camp, making the residence living in a state of fear and anticipation of the unknown fate, especially after the repeated attempts to break into the camp and throw them into the flames of raging war in Syria.*

*On 10th of June 2013, the camp was bombed with a number of shells, resulted in a number of wounded and the outbreak of a fire in one of the farms. The camp was targeted several times, most violent was 07th of July 2013 when several shells fell near the secondary school of the camp, followed by clashes outbreak between the security members of the PFLP General Command and groups of Free Army.*



*On 16th of August 2013, Syrian army put a barrier at Al Teiba crossing in Khan Danon, coincided with widespread of security forces at Khan Danon crossing, inspection of passers-by and closure of all bypaths and roads.*

*On 18th of August 2013, the members of the Regular Army, who were located in the camp's checkpoint, raided mobiles shop on Salah al-Din (Al Teiba road) and arrested its owner and then smashed the furniture and the equipment.*

*On 17th of November 2013, night clashes between the Regular Army and groups of the FSA, led to the death of the young man, "Abdul Rahman Yasin Ali" and a number of wounded.*

*Regular Army members of the Barrier, on 17th of February 2014, have made Random arrests of the Palestinian refugees displaced from Sbeina camp to Khan Danon camp, where five people arrested, unknown names.*

*On 11th of April 2014, violent clashes broke out between groups of Free Army and groups of the PFLP - General Command in the vicinity of Khan Danon, led to the death of two members of the PFLP-General Command.*

*In the meantime, in order to keep Khan Dannoun refugee camp away of the ravages of war in Syria, a number of activists and dignitaries have launched many appeal calls demanding the PLO, UNRWA, Palestinian Refugees Foundation, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, all factions and civil society organizations, to work in seriously with all parties of the conflict in Syria to neutralize the camp and get him out of this circle.*

*The camp is considered the center and the only and last shelter for stricken Palestinian camps, the activists also confirmed that the solutions that awaits the people of the camp beyond financial and in-kind aid, with its importance, but this requires everyone to rise the efforts of political movement and diplomacy with all parties concerned in order to save the camp of this tragic situation.*



*It is worth mentioning that the number of victims who have died from Khan Dannoun refugee camp, According to the documented statistics by Action Group for Palestinians of Syria, since the beginning of the war in Syria until the end of May 2014 amounted to twelve people.*

*As for the economic side, Khan Dannoun camp residents suffer of tense living crises reflected in the scarcity of food and the spread of unemployment and poverty, and the continued power, water and telecommunications outages for long periods. Khan Dannoun camp residents also complain of the crisis in securing the graves because of the fullness of the camp tomb, where people started buried their dead in the narrow spaces between the graves.*

*This prompted them to demand the, UNRWA, Palestinian refugees Foundation, bodies, institutions and charity organizations to move rapidly to Relief and help the people in the camp in order to alleviate the need and poverty.*

*It is noteworthy that Khan Danon refugee camp was established formally in 1950- 1951, which is located at a distance of 23 km south of the Syrian capital Damascus, an area of 120,000 square kilometers, with an estimated population of about twelve thousand Palestinian refugees, added to twenty thousand people have been displaced from the camps of Yarmouk, Sabina, Al Sayieda Zainab, Husseinia compound, Altheabih town, Al Hajar Al Aswad, Daria and Khan Al Sheih refugee camp because of the deterioration of security situation in their areas.*