



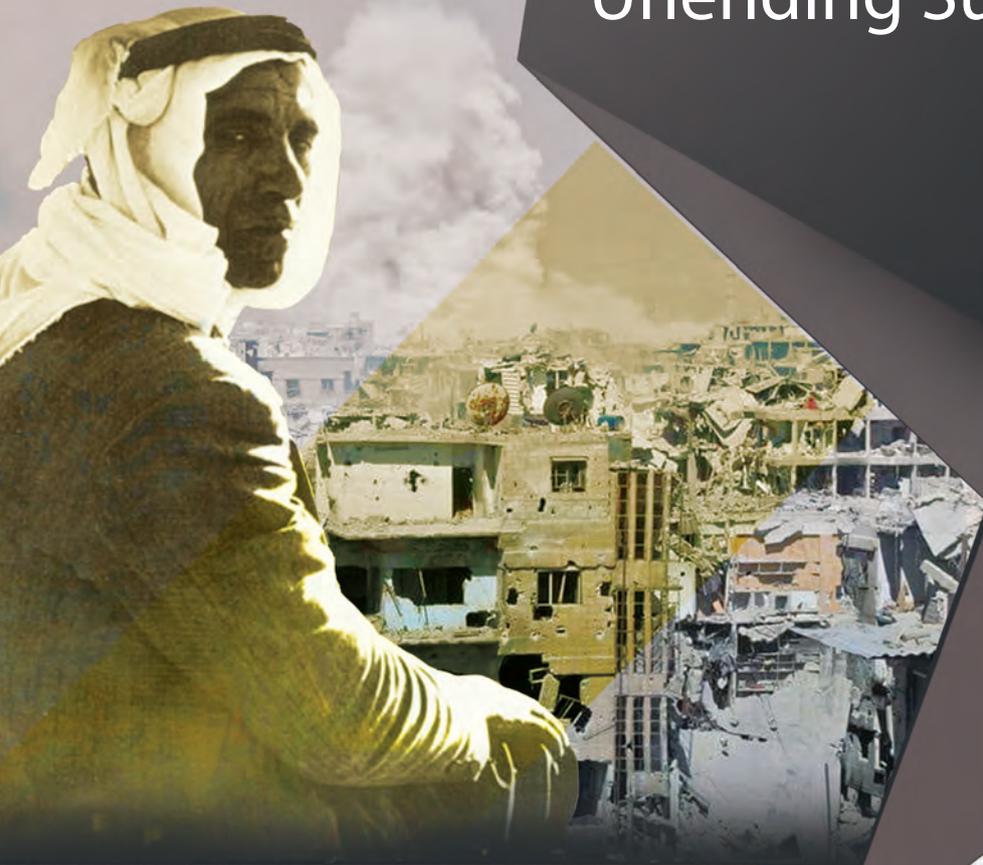
مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre



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

Palestinians of Syria

The Story of Unending Suffering



Annual Field Report
on the Situation of
Palestinians of Syria

2018

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MIDDLE EAST M●NITOR

Middle East Monitor is a not-for-profit media research institute that provides research, information and analyses of primarily the Palestine-Israel conflict. It also provides briefings on other Middle East issues. Its outputs are made available for use by journalists, academics and politicians with an interest in the Middle East and North Africa.

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PALESTINIANS OF SYRIA

The Story of
Unending Suffering



INTRODUCTION

As the atrocities of war continued with an unabated pace throughout 2018, hundreds of Palestinian families living in Syria fell prey to a new tide of forced deportation and displacement, both inside and outside of the embattled Syrian territories. Dozens of families were torn apart; others learned that their relatives were tortured to death in Syria's mysterious dungeons; scores more breathed their last on their way to fetch bread loafs to feed their starved children or onboard the death boats to Europe, seeking a safe shelter.

At the same time, several families who returned to their shelters and refugee camps after the Syrian government recaptured zones previously held by the different warring militias had been subjected to abject living conditions and simmering crackdowns, both in the northern and southern corners of the ravaged Syrian territories.

Though the number of victims and detainees relatively shrunk back compared to previous years, dozens of Palestinian refugees were pronounced dead in 2018. According to AGPS data as many as 3,911 Palestinian refugees from Syria died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the bloody conflict in March 2011 until the end of 2018. 1,714 were detained during the same period. In 2018 alone, the warfare took away the lives of 276 Palestinian refugees and led to the incarceration of 16 others.

The present report provides thorough data on the daily onslaughts, death toll and number of detainees in war-torn Syria in 2018. It also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in refugee camps across and outside of the Syrian territories.



At the same time, the study provides a detailed account of the violations perpetrated against the Palestinians of Syria on in their quest to seek asylum and on their way to Europe.

The data has been compiled by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers and researchers.

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS' team does its best to uphold the finest standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footage and sworn affidavits are taken directly from the scene of fighting across a myriad of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS' role as a human rights overseer.

AGPS is reshaping global media on human rights documentation and relentlessly working to boost its status as one of the world's most respected and consulted human rights organisations.

A series of annual and semi-annual reports released by AGPS, in partnership with the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), on the situation of the Palestinians of Syria are available on the groups' websites:

<http://www.actionpal.org.uk/en/>

www.prc.org.uk



OVERVIEW

Sounds of mortars and fighter jets continued to rock Palestinian refugee camps and shelters throughout 2018, though at a slower pace during the last quarter of the year. The Syrian government battalions recaptured the southern outskirts of Damascus before they grabbed hold of rest of the capital and other tension-stricken zones south of Syria.

The AGPS team worked around the clock to reach out to Palestinian families in Syria who have been displaced and document the names, locations and number of those arrested or killed regardless of their political affiliations.

Victims of Enforced Disappearance and Torture

Shocking testimonies and alarming facts on the ground have been increasingly released by AGPS regarding the victims of enforced disappearance and torture in Syrian state prisons. In 2018 alone, 82 Palestinian refugees were tortured to death or executed in Syria's government-run prisons. As many as 565 Palestinian refugees have died of torture since the Syrian conflict began until 2018 in penitentiaries run by pro-government forces and opposition groups across the Syrian territories, hundreds of others have suffered as a re-

sult of the psycho-physical torture they have been subjected to.

Hundreds of Palestinian families were internally displaced in Syria following reconciliation deals struck between the warring parties. Armistices signed between government forces and other battalions led to the displacement of 1,292 Palestinian families across Syria. The list includes hundreds of youths who rebuffed attempts to force them to join pro-government squads, along with dozens of activists, journalists and civilian families.

At the same time, dozens of displaced Palestinian families and refugees who have sought shelter outside of Syria, have been struggling for survival in neighbouring countries or in European and non-European destinations. Denials of the right to legal visas and family reunification along with the arbitrary abduction sweeps, movement restrictions, lack of access to local labour markets, and the closed-door immigration policies have made the situation far more unbearable for the Palestinian refugee community from Syria. Those who fled to such impoverished zones as the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip have witnessed a two-fold tragedy.

A total of 251,794 illegal migrants were arrested by the Turkish authorities in 2011, including 53,860 who were subjected to refoulement. In 2018, as many as 450,000 migrants attempted to illegally enter Turkey, down from 857,000 in 2015.

In the meantime, dozens of migrants, including women, children and the elderly, have been detained in Thailand. Several refugees suffered psychological breakdowns in Thai prisons due to ill-treatment. Others locked themselves up indoors fearful of being abducted.

In effect, most of the world's countries have opted for tight security measures and shut the doors before the Palestinians of Syria.



CHAPTER 1

Palestinian Refugees Inside Syria



Refugee Camps

- Yarmouk Camp
- Khan Eshieh Camp
- AlSabina Camp
- AlHusainiya Camp
- Jaramana Camp
- Khan Dannun Camp
- AlSayeda Zeinab Camp
- AlRamadan Camp
- Daraa Camp
- Handarat Camp
- AlNeirab Camp
- AlAyedeen Camp in Hums
- AlAyedeen Camp in Hama
- AlRaml Camp in Latakia

Refugee Communities

- Southern Damascus: Babila, Yalda, Beit Sahem
- Qudsaya
- Hittin Community
- Northern Syria
- Southern Syria

SECTION 1.1

A/ Refugee Camps

- Yarmouk Camp
- Khan Eshieh Camp
- AlSabina Camp
- AlHusainiya Camp
- Jaramana Camp
- Khan Dannun Camp
- AlSayeda Zeinab Camp
- AlRamadan Camp
- Daraa Camp
- Handarat Camp
- AlNeirab Camp
- AlAyedeen Camp in Hums
- AlAyedeen Camp in Hama
- AlRaml Camp in Latakia



YARMOUK CAMP

In 2018, the Yarmouk refugee camp, south of Damascus, came under heavy shelling. Bloody confrontations between ISIS, the Nusra Front and government battalions made the situation fraught with uncontrolled tensions, particularly during the first half of the year.

Tensions had reached their peak as government forces tried to recapture every corner of the camp.

The situation took a dramatic turn for the worst following a military offensive launched by government battalions in an attempt to force ISIS and Tahrir ALSham gunmen out of the area. On 19 April, an operation launched by government battalions, in partnership with the Russian squads, on Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun neighbourhood, ALKadam and ALHajar ALAswad led to the destruction of 60% of civilian structures and the death of dozens of civilians. Civilian facilities were struck with mortar shells, tanks and missiles, resulting in a state of unparalleled panic.

Pro-government squads regained control of the camp on 21 May.

Pro-government militias later looted civilian properties in and around the camp.

During the last quarter of 2018, efforts were launched by local committees to

reclear out the debris and rebuild the camp. However, the displaced families were not allowed to return to their homes.

FACTS ON THE GROUND

Violent shootouts between ISIS militias and Tahrir ALSham gunmen culminated in a tight blockade by ISIS on Yarmouk's western corners in an attempt to force Tahrir ALSham fighters to lay down their arms. At the same time, clashes broke out between ISIS and the pro-government forces in the area.

ISIS militias and the opposition squads threw in the towel and left the area following the 33-day military offensive launched by the Syrian government on 19 April.

ISIS TIGHTENS GRIP ON YARMOUK

ISIS held sway over 60% of Yarmouk Camp from April 2015 until 18 May 2018. The group's mobs tightened the noose around stranded Yarmouk residents. AGPS documented the execution of 10 persons in separate incidents. ISIS gangs also cut off peoples' hands over theft allegations. Others were subjected to heavy whipping and arbitrary abduction. A tight blockade was slapped by ISIS on Tahrir ALSham-controlled zones west of Yarmouk, blocking civilians' access to bread, drinking water and food boxes.

ISIS VIOLATIONS

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp continued their cries for help in response to the crackdowns and oppressive measures pursued by ISIS militias who took control of the camp in April 2015.

Scores of civilians were detained and others had their hands or heads cut off

under the religious pretext or over alleged ties to rival groups.

ISIS commanders also banned civilians visiting their relatives' graves and prevented students and teaching staff from accessing academic institutions. Doors of local schools were closed, leaving residents with no option but to join the ISIS-run school.

Groups of women were also tasked by ISIS mobs to keep tabs on "religious felonies" committed by women inside the camp. ISIS banned driving a motorbike from and into Yarmouk, Yalda and AlKadam.

- **On January 28, 2018** ISIS flogged one of its members, called Mu'awiya, one hundred times over charges of adultery. On the same day, ISIS gunmen stormed the home of a resident of AlHajar AlAswad before they kidnapped him over allegations of smuggling a number of people from southern Damascus in return for money.
- **On February 2, 2018**, ISIS executed two Palestinian young men: Ramez Abdullah and Bashar Sa'id. ISIS' religious court south of Damascus convicted Ramez of collaborating with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP – GC). Bashar was accused of collaborating with Aknaf Beit AlMaqdis opposition battalion. The executions were carried near AlHajar AlAswad's municipality. Pictures purporting to show the executions were released by ISIS the following day, in an attempt to terrorise civilians.
- **On February 4, 2018**, ISIS-affiliated gunwomen arrested a female resident of Yarmouk at a checkpoint pitched in Street 15, after she refused to be stopped and searched.

- On February 13, 2018, ISIS flogged a Yarmouk resident for tobacco possession and smuggling from Yalda to Yarmouk Camp. In pictures released shortly afterwards the man can be seen being whipped in public.
- On January 27, 2018, Palestinian refugee Mousa AlBadawi was extra-judicially executed by ISIS outside of the Palestine Mosque in Yamrouk on charges of collaboration with Tahrir ALSham.
- On March 2, 2018, Members of the so-called Hasaba flogged a number of Yarmouk residents under the guise of religion. The list of charges included tobacco smuggling and beard shaving.
- On March 9, 2018, ISIS released pictures purporting to show the amputation of a resident in the Hajar ALAswad neighbourhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp.
- On March 11, 2018, two unidentified Yarmouk residents had their hands cut off by ISIS over charges of theft.
- On March 23, 2018, pictures showing the murder of Nidal Darwish appeared on ISIS pages on social media networks. Nidhal was stabbed to death with a knife after ISIS gangsters attacked pro-government forces in ALKadam neighbourhood, near Yarmouk Camp.
- On April 13, 2018, ISIS released live snapshots of the execution of Palestinian refugee Emad ALArabi. The father of a three-year-old child and a resident of Street 15 was killed for alleged blasphemy.
- On April 18, 2018, ISIS released the Palestinian refugee and activist Ayman Dawah after locking him up for five days in Yarmouk Camp.

INTERNAL RIFTS AND RECONCILIATION DEALS

Tension soared among ISIS commanders in 2018. Reports have emerged on mounting wrangles in the stronghold of AlHajar AlAswad, in southern Damascus, over newly assigned leaders. The situation took a turn for the worse following a truce deal struck with the government forces stipulating that ISIS gunmen retreat from Yarmouk Camp to AlHajar AlAswad to make way for the government's takeover of the camp. Several ISIS princes went on to break away from the militia while others fled to unknown destinations. Other gunmen pleaded with the government forces to allow them to safely retreat to Deir AlZor, to the northeast of the country. The rift was exacerbated by a salary crisis.

- **On January 4, 2018**, six ISIS members, including Basel Ghabash (nicknamed AlSarot), Zayed AlAshkar and Osama (called AlAshkar), along with three civilians, headed for Idlib through a checkpoint near Barda Factory between AlHajar AlAswad and AlSabina, in a move coordinated with government squads. Reports also emerged on the exit of at least five ISIS fighters along with a civilian via the Barda checkpoint following arrangements with government forces in return for cash.
- **On January 6, 2018**, 225 ISIS members left AlHajar AlAswad - controlled by ISIS - making their way to the government-run Barda checkpoint.
- **On January 12, 2018**, sources close to the Syrian opposition said government forces evacuated injured ISIS fighters to hospitals in Damascus for treatment. Thirteen wounded gunmen were transferred to AlMahayni Hospital in the neighbourhood of AlMaydan through the Asali checkpoint, south of Damascus. AGPS could not verify the authenticity of these reports.

- **On February 12, 2018**, a number of ISIS leaders gained access to ISIS-controlled areas south of Damascus. AGPS learned that three ISIS commanders holding different nationalities entered the area after they were nominated for leadership posts in southern Damascus. The list included an Algerian national (appointed as General Commander), an Iraqi national (security official) and a Saudi citizen (religious chief). Unverified reports also emerged on the appointment of another leader who allegedly held Tunisian citizenship.
- **On April 1, 2018**, 11 ISIS members, including Abu Meriam, Abu Bakr AlShar'i and Abu Farouq Tiba, retreated from the stronghold of AlHajar AlAswad and passed through the Barda checkpoint in coordination with Syrian government forces.
- **On April 6, 2018**, ISIS reshuffled its offices in Yarmouk Camp. Reports emerged that negotiations were being held between the group and the Syrian government over ISIS' withdrawal from southern Damascus.
- **On April 17, 2018**, a Syrian government delegation entered ISIS-held areas to urge the group to pull back from southern Damascus to the Yarmouk Basin in Daraa, south of Syria, in order to avoid military action in the region. The negotiations, however, reached deadlock as neither side was willing to relent.
- **On April 18, 2018**, a number of ISIS fighters left Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar AlAswad heading northwards, just one day before a large-scale military offensive by the pro-government forces.

TAHRIR ALSHAM-HELD ZONES

Tahrir AlSham controlled areas west of Yarmouk Camp and failed to grab hold of other adjacent zones due to the unending mortars and rockets dropped on the area by Syrian government battalions. Attacks were also launched by ISIS to force Tahrir AlSham fighters to surrender or retreat. Shootouts culminated in ISIS capturing the Haifa Street crossroad and several buildings which overlook the Abu Fuad Bakery and Yarmouk Street.

ISIS kept cracking down on the free movement of students and teaching staff on their way to schools through the Yalda-Yarmouk checkpoint. Those who passed through the area had their bags searched and textbooks inspected. At times ISIS militias banned students and teachers from accessing their schools in Yalda. A number of teaching personnel were also summoned to questioning at ISIS offices under false pretexts.

In an article entitled "Palestine Refugee Children in Syria Brave 'The Checkpoint of Death' for the Sake of Education and Dignity", the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Pierre Krähenbühl, said 900 Palestine refugee students registered with UNRWA risked their lives to pass through "the checkpoint of death", in reference to a roadblock controlled by ISIS for two years, every day to get to school.

The article outlined how ISIS would harass students as they waited to travel through the area, sometimes confiscating their books. "But they persevered because education for them was a matter of life and death; their only weapon."

"These children are part of a pre-war population of 560,000 Palestine refugees in Syria. Over 120,000 have fled, including approximately 32,500 to

Lebanon and 17,000 to Jordan. Over 95 per cent of those who stayed behind in Syria are in need of sustained humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic food and shelter needs," Krähenbühl wrote.

HEALTHCARE

All the hospitals and clinics in the camp ceased operations due to the crippling blockade imposed by Syrian government forces and their war partners.



Dozens of civilians sustained life-threatening diseases, including liver and kidney diseases, due to the contaminated water they had been forced to drink after the Syrian government cut off clean water supplies in mid-2013.

The situation deteriorated further in the aftermath of the military operation launched by government battalions in mid-April. Scores of Palestinian refugees were killed and dozens were injured as a result. Civilians, including children and women, were among the dead. Several others were severely wounded by thermobaric rockets and explosive barrels dropped on civilian

shelters. The absence of civil defence crews and rescue paramedics led to the death of dozens of civilians with others disappearing beneath the rubble.

In a statement issued on 31 May, AGPS slammed the Syrian authorities for preventing civil defence crews from uncovering dead bodies trapped beneath the mounds of debris which was piled up in the camp.

The bodies reportedly included members of the Ghoutani family, along with those from ALHadaba, ALAmouri and ALNabulsi, among others.

Syrian authorities claimed the ban was in place because none of the relatives of the deceased were in the area to claim the bodies.

AGPS called on the international human rights institutions to immediately step in and pressure the Syrian government to allow the bodies of Palestinians to be recovered from the debris.

Shortly after the government recaptured the camp, eye-witnesses said its affiliated militias stole medical equipment from Palestine Hospital, in Yarmouk, and forced Red Crescent ambulances out of the area.

LIVING CONDITIONS

ISIS militias increased their crackdowns against civilians in Yarmouk Camp, particularly against families taking shelter in Yarmouk's western zones. As a result, civilians run out of much-needed foodstuff and medical items. Children were left on the verge of dying of starvation.

Residents of Yarmouk's western neighbourhoods of ALRija, Jadat Ein Ghazal, Street 15 and ALThalatheen Street, all controlled by Tahrir ALSham, suffered a twofold siege imposed by government squads and ISIS militias.

ISIS cordoned off the area and blockaded the entry of food and drugs in an attempt to force Tahrir AlSham to withdraw.

Scores of families fled the area in search of safe shelters. Only 15 families remained in the area, down from 30 prior to the start of the bloody shootouts.

CROSSING-POINTS AS BARGAINING CHIPS

The blockade was one of the tactics used by Syrian government forces in order to compel the opposition to retreat from southern Damascus. The government squads closed off crossing points and checkpoints stopping civilians and much-needed items from accessing them. Opposition forces were told to select one of the following options: either keep the Babbila-Sidi Mikdad crossing open or to keep the access point between Yarmouk and Yalda shut. The Syrian government forced residents of Babbila to close the crossing with Yarmouk in order to allow foodstuff to be delivered to Babbila

OPENINGS/CLOSURES

- **On January 8, 2018**, government forces closed the Babbila-Sidi Mikdad checkpoint, south of Damascus, and denied civilians access into Yalda, Babbila, Beit Sahem and Damascus.
- **On January 10, 2018**, government squads opened the checkpoint and allowed civilians to deliver/receive goods on both sides of the passageway.
- **On March 3, 2018**, opposition groups in Yalda sealed the Uruba checkpoint with sand barriers at the request of government forces.
- **On March 15, 2018**, local authorities in Yalda closed the checkpoint setup between the town and Yarmouk Camp. In a statement the local authorities

يُفتح الحاجز من الساعة السابعة صباحاً
وصحى الرابعة عصرًا ويمنع إدخال المحرقات
بكافة أنواعه .
يسمح بإدخال (٤ كغ) فقط للشخص الواحد
مع ربطة فبز واحدة وعصا للأهالي
الذين له علاقة لهم بدراغش

announced their decision to close the crossing from all sides for 48 hours and ban the entrance of dead and injured gunmen affiliated with ISIS and AlNusra Front into the area. The decision, made following the extraordinary session No. (2) held on 13 March, was announced through the loudspeakers of local mosques. The local security office and the Assembly of Yalda Fighters were tasked with implementing the decision on the ground.

- **On March 17, 2018**, opposition forces in Yalda set up sand barriers at the Uruba checkpoint.
- **On April 2, 2018**, opposition squads south of Damascus partly unblocked the checkpoint before residents wishing to leave Yarmouk Camp.
- **On April 6, 2018**, government forces closed the Babbila roadblock, just a few days after opposition forces opened the Uruba crossing.
- **On April 8, 2018**, government forces opened the Babbila-Sidi Mikdad checkpoint at the same time as opposition squads closed the Uruba crossing. Civilians and commercial goods were granted access through the Babbila checkpoint.



KEY EVENTS

- On January 3, 2018, mortar shells hit the outskirts of Yarmouk Camp and the area between Jaysh ALAbabeel and ISIS in ALTadhamun neighbourhood. Intermittent shootouts between pro-government forces and ISIS also took place in Nisreen Street.
- On January 3, 2018, intermittent clashes flared between ISIS and Jaysh Allslam. The latter targeted an ISIS site in ALZein quarter, in Yarmouk Camp, resulting in deaths and injuries among ISIS members.
- On January 7, 2018, overnight clashes broke out at the crossroads of Palestine Street between ALKaraeen battalions and pro-government forces. No casualties were reported on either side.
- On January 12, 2018, ISIS struck opposition sites in ALZein neighbourhood in Yarmouk Camp. An ISIS-led car blast and rocket attacks targeted Jaysh Allslam strongholds in ALZein area. The opposition forces responded by firing mortar shells and guided

grenades. Opposition squads in Yalda regained control over the majority of ISIS sites. The shootouts culminated in the death of two members of Jaysh Allslam whose bodies were thrown by ISIS militias in the stronghold of ALHajar ALAswad after they cut off their heads. Seven other Jaysh Allslam affiliates were also injured. A number of ISIS gunmen were pronounced dead and others injured in the clashes.

- **On January 14, 2018**, ISIS fighters captured a number of sites held by Tahrir ALSham after they broke into western Yarmouk Camp. Five members of Tahrir ALSham were killed and three others held captive by ISIS. The group also grabbed hold of the office of the Palestine Charity Commission, Abdul Kader ALHusaini Mosque and a nearby kindergarten. Amaq News Agency said ISIS gunmen left three bodies hanging in ALHajar ALAswad.
- **On January 15, 2018**, sporadic clashes burst out in Yarmouk Camp and shootouts occurred between ISIS and Tahrir ALSham. No casualties were reported.
- **On January 17, 2018**, violent clashes broke out between ISIS and the opposition forces in ALZein neighborhood, south of Damascus. The opposition forces in Yalda thwarted a ferocious attack launched by ISIS fighters at the crossroads of ALZein neighborhood. The opposition forces also targeted an armored ISIS bulldozer using DShK machine gun.
- **On January 20, 2018**, ISIS combatants attacked opposition-held sites in ALZein neighbourhood using guided missiles. ISIS captured the camp's landmark, the "white building", following fierce confrontations. Two members of Jaysh Allslam were killed and others wounded.
- **On January 21, 2018**, ISIS gunmen broke into the former headquarters of the civil defence on the outer edges of ALZein quarter, south of Yarmouk Camp, and siezed all of its equipment. ISIS turned the building into a military site where arms and car bombs were stored and imposed a tight cordon around the area.
- **On January 22, 2018**, overnight clashes occurred between ISIS and Tahrir

ALSham. No fatalities were reported.

- On January 28, 2018, clashes broke out between the pro-government Free Palestine Movement and ISIS battalions at ALShuhadaa crossroads in Yarmouk Camp. The Free Palestine Movement said that one of its fighters - Ahmed Fawzi Douah, called Abu Rami - was injured after ISIS gunmen attempted to enter into Palestine Street.
- On January 31, 2018, intermittent confrontations broke out between pro-government squads and ISIS militias on the outskirts of Yarmouk Camp. No casualties were reported.
- on February 4, 2018, ISIS struck the vicinities of Zied Ibn ALKhattab Mosque, west of Yarmouk Camp, with mortar shells, resulting in material damage. ISIS also attacked a residential building in Haifa Street with rocket-propelled grenades. Fires broke out and the building was burned down in its entirety.
- On February 7, 2018, mortar shells hit the vicinities of the Yarmouk High School for Girls on Palestine Street. Violent clashes broke out between pro-government forces and ISIS.
- On February 8, 2018, Tahrir ALSham attacked the ISIS-held ALMalkiya School building, which was used by the Palestine Charity Commission as its main office in Yarmouk. Four ISIS members were killed.
- On February 11, 2018, pro-government forces targeted neighbourhoods in Yarmouk Camp with mortar shells. Mortars fell in Uruba and ALKadam quarters, inflicting heavy damage on the homes of stranded civilians. The government forces also struck Palestine Street and ALTadhamun neighbourhood with guided missiles and targeted ALShuhadaa Street with medium and heavy weapons.
- On February 15, 2018, ISIS captured Haifa Street, controlled by Tahrir ALSham, in Yarmouk Camp, following violent confrontations. A number of Tahrir ALSham fighters were killed. ISIS also burned several houses on Haifa Street and stole civilian property. ISIS vehicles were spotted trans-

ferring furniture from Haifa Street to AlHajar ALAswad. Tahrir ALSham battalions said several ISIS members were killed and others wounded in an attack launched by ISIS on Tahrir ALSham-held areas in Yarmouk. At the same time, government forces struck Tahrir ALSham sites in Yarmouk using heavy machine guns.

- **On February 16, 2018**, fierce clashes burst out between ISIS gunmen and Tahrir ALSham at the crossroads of ALZein Street.
- **On February 18, 2018**, ISIS captured AlWaseem Mosque following fierce crossfire. Tahrir ALSham was left with a handful of sites in AlWasseem, Jadat Ein Ghazal and AlRija, to the north, down to Street 30, to the west, and Zaid Bin ALKhattab Mosque, to the south.
- **On February 19, 2018**, dozens of ISIS gunmen were pronounced dead following shootouts with ISIS. The latter captured buildings overlooking Abu Fuad Bakery and other buildings in Yarmouk Camp.

On the same day, Syrian government forces attacked Palestine Street with artillery shells and DShK machine guns.

- **On February 25, 2018**, ISIS attempted to infiltrate Tahrir ALSham-held territory in Yarmouk using an armoured vehicle and a booby-trapped car near AlWaseem Mosque. Tahrir ALSham fighters thwarted the infiltration and damaged the armoured vehicles, resulting in deaths. A number of homes in the area of AlWaseem were burned down after they were targeted with guided grenades. ISIS removed sand barriers and set up roadblocks to isolate Tahrir ALSham-held areas and block the movement of rival gunmen.
- **On February 28, 2018**, violent confrontations burst out between ISIS and the pro-government Free Palestine Movement at ALShuhadaa crossroads in Yarmouk. No casualties were reported on either side.
- **On March 2, 2018**, sporadic clashes flared between opposition forces and ISIS militias on the outskirts of Yarmouk Camp.
- **On March 4, 2018**, clashes broke out between ISIS and Tahrir ALSham west



of Yarmouk. No deaths or injuries were reported.

- **On March 6, 2018**, Tahrir ALSham targeted an ISIS site west of Yarmouk, resulting in deaths among ISIS gunmen.

On the same day, government forces struck a vehicle carrying ISIS militants. Clashes also broke out near Yarmouk College, on Palestine Street, between ISIS and the Free Palestine Movement. No deaths were reported.

- **On March 8, 2018**, overnight clashes erupted at the crossroads of Palestine Street between ALKara'een battalion and pro-government forces. Shelling also rocked Palestine Street and the vicinities of Yarmouk College for Girls.
- **On March 12, 2018**, government warplanes and tanks struck Yarmouk Camp and ALHajar ALAswad, sparking terror among civilians and inflicting material damage to civilian homes.
- **On the same day**, a violent attack was carried out by ISIS on ALKadam neighbourhood after the latter threatened to step up violence in case ALKadam residents and opposition forces accept a government deal stipulating their retreat to northern Syria. Over 3,000 civilians had been stranded in ALKadam since late 2012.



- On March 13, 2018, confrontations flared between ISIS and government forces. The latter targeted ISIS sites south of Damascus with ground-to-ground missiles and artillery shells.
- On March 15, 2018, government forces used missiles and mortar shells to target Yarmouk Camp, AlHajar ALAswad and Street 30, ruining civilian homes
- On March 17, 2018, shootouts occurred between ISIS and pro-government forces at ALShuhadaa crossroads. The sound of explosions emanating from mortar shell fire could be heard across the area.
- On March 26, 2018, ISIS gunmen and snipers were deployed across the camp and surrounding areas of confrontation following reports that Tahrir ALSham fighters were attempting to retreat from Yarmouk to northern Syria.
- On March 28, 2018, intermittent clashes broke out at ALShuhadaa crossroads between ISIS and pro-government outfits.
- On April 11, 2018, guided missiles were dropped on ALShuhadaa crossroad and ALTadhamun neighbourhood. The missiles were fired from a government-held building.
- On April 12, 2018, the government forces and their war allies struck Yar-

mouk's thoroughfare and Jadat, to the east, with heavy machine gun. Material damage was reported.

- On April 14, 2018, rockets and mortar shells struck the camp causing material damage.
- On April 15, 2018, Palestinian refugee Ahmed Abdul Naser Azimeh was killed in a rocket attack on Yarmouk. Injuries were reported.
- On April 16, 2018, air raids were launched by government forces on Yarmouk Camp. Clashes burst out between ISIS and pro-government squads
- On April 17, 2018, sporadic shootouts took place between ISIS and pro-government forces at ALShuhadaa crossroads. The camp was also bombed.
- On April 18, 2018, intermittent clashes burst out at ALShuhadaa crossroads between government forces and ISIS. No deaths were reported on either side. Confrontations also flared at the crossroad between the neighbourhood of Zulaikha and Daaboul Street, separating the opposition-held town of Yalda and the ISIS-controlled ALTadhamun neighbourhood.



THE MILITARY OPERATION LAUNCHED BY THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES ON YARMOUK CAMP: APRIL 19-MAY 21

On April 19, 2018, a large-scale military operation was launched by government forces, in partnership with their Russian abettors, on Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun, ALKadam and ALHajar ALAswad in an attempt to force ISIS out.

PRE-OFFENSIVE PHASE

Observers in and near the camp detected signs of a preplanned onslaught by the Syrian government battalions and ISIS squads, weeks before the operation was launched. Government forces intensified their military presence near the main entrances to the camp and the adjacent areas. Troops from the Fourth Division's ALGhaith Unit were summoned to provide military reinforcement in the town of Hjeira, near ALHajar ALAswad. Tanks and armoured vehicles were also spotted in the area.

Other troops from Liwaa AlQuds, the National Defense Force, the Republican Guard and Darra' AlKalamoun brigades were stationed around southern Damascus

Pictures circulated on social media networks showed the heavy deployment of military outfits across the outer edges of Yarmouk Camp and the nearby Nisreen Street.

AlWatan newspaper said ISIS will be forced out of the area through a military campaign, adding that the opposition fighters who wished to safely exit southern Damascus will be allowed to do so after ISIS and AlNusra militias are removed from the area.

- **On April 6, 2018**, ISIS reshuffled its sites in Yarmouk Camp, amid emerging reports that negotiations were underway between government forces and ISIS over the latter's safe retreat from southern Damascus.

ISIS reinforced its military grip at areas of heightened tensions with government forces and their allied militias and dug a tunnels at its sites.

- **On April 10, 2018**, ISIS forced the residents of AlShuhadaa crossroads out of their homes stretching from Loubiya Street to Yarmouk College for Girls, at gunpoint, declaring the area a closed military zone. Families were seen leaving their homes heading to the nearby Yalda town.
- **On April 11, 2018**, eye-witnesses told AGPS that government bulldozers and heavily-armed pro-government troops were deployed on Yarmouk's access roads.
- **On April 13, 2018**, a circular entitled "emergency bag" was issued by ISIS' medical office south of Damascus, notifying Yarmouk residents of an upcoming emergency situation.

- On April 15, 2018, government forces struck various locations in Yarmouk Camp. Palestinian refugee Ahmed Abdul Naser Azimeh was killed. Injuries were reported in the attack.

NEGOTIATIONS

On 16 April, a government delegation was spotted at ISIS sites in Yarmouk Camp after it entered the area in an attempt to convince ISIS militants to retreat from southern Damascus to the Yarmouk Basin, in Daraa, to the south of Syria, so as to avoid military escalation. However, ISIS rebuffed the offer.

News outlets close to the Syrian government said a Russian delegation arrived in ALTadhamun neighbourhood and Yarmouk Camp on 18 April to negotiate with Tahrir ALSham forces and the Ababeel Huran Brigade over a reconciliation deal and their retreat from the camp.

MILITARY OPERATION LAUNCHED

- On April 19, 2018, government warplanes launched over 45 air raids on Yarmouk Camp, ALHajar ALAswad, ALAsali and ALTadhamun, south of Damascus. Barrel bombs, surface-to-surface missiles and mortar shells struck the area.



The first Palestinian victim of the deadly shelling was

Emad Rayan. Several other residents of Yarmouk were left injured in the attacks which rocked ALMaghareba Street, near the old Shuhadaa Cemetery and the Sports City. Civilian homes were also damaged.

Injuries were reported among civilians. Homes were burned.

Alarm bells were sounded over the deteriorating humanitarian condition as dozens of families were stranded indoors due to the unabated shelling. The situation was made worse by the closure of the Uruba checkpoint, separating Yarmouk from Yalda town, by opposition forces.

Stranded civilians launched calls for opening the Uruba checkpoint and evacuating the wounded and trapped civilians.

The UN expressed deep concern over the safety of civilians in the camp.

In statements released on 6 May, Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said that following military operations in Syria's Yarmouk Camp, UN humanitarian officers reported that some 7,000 people - 70 per cent of whom are Palestinian refugees - were displaced to Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem towns in Rural Damascus.

Since mid-April, hostilities in southern Damascus resulted in civilian deaths and injuries, as well as the displacement of civilians and the destruction of infrastructure.

The UN said it stood ready to deliver inter-agency humanitarian assistance to people in need in Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem, as well as to Yarmouk, as soon as the conditions allowed and access was granted.

The UN called on all parties, and those with influence over them, to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and to allow safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to all in need, in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The United Nations further reminded all parties that the evacuation of civilians must be safe, voluntary and in strict accordance with the protection standards under international law.

- On April 20, 2018, violent onslaughts were launched by Syrian and Russian fighter jets on the camp. Missiles and mortar shells were dropped. Attempting to hold sway over flashpoints, pro-government forces showered AlMaghareba Street, the vicinities of the Cultural Center, the Uruba Street, AlMadaris Street, Street 30, and Street 15 with missiles and mortar shells. Violent shootouts occurred at a sporadic pace.

As many as 230 air strikes were reportedly carried out by Syrian and Russian forces on Yarmouk and the surrounding areas.

Palestine Hospital, run by the Palestinian Red Crescent, was directly hit in the shelling, killing Palestinian refugee Jamal Samih Hamid, called Abu Khaled, as he was tending to the wounded. The hospital, the only medical facility left in the camp, could no longer operate as a result.

Government forces struck residential buildings in Tahrir AlSham-held areas with rockets and mortar shells. According to sources from Tahrir AlSham, the government forces failed to make their way into the area. Tahrir AlSham claimed responsibility for the death of 10 government fighters as they attempted to move into AlRija.

Violent shootouts took place in Rama Street and Street 30 as government forces attempted to re-enter the area and attacked a Tahrir AlSham site at the Rama crossroads. Two fighters, one from PFLP-GC and the other from the Syrian army, were killed.

Residential facilities in Ein Ghazal, AlMaghareba Street, and other areas west of Yarmouk were left damaged heavily.

Government warplanes launched two air raids on the Japanese Hospital, located on Yarmouk's outer edges and struck flashpoints with ISIS.

Palestinians fighting alongside government forces in Yarmouk were pronounced dead and others were injured in the clashes. The list includes Saed Abd AlAal, the military commander of the Free Palestine Movement, who sustained wounds in his head and feet. Hasan AlNazal and Hasan

Hasan were also injured as a result of mortar shrapnel.

Stranded civilians continued to appeals for the Uruba checkpoint to be opened to evacuate the wounded.

- **On April 21, 2018**, Between 20-21 April over 60 air raids were launched on Yarmouk, ALTadhamun, ALHajar ALAswad and Yalda. More than 25 barrel

bombs, mortar shells and artillery shells were dropped on Yarmouk and ALHajar ALAswad.

Heavy material damage was wrought on residential neighbourhoods and mounds of rubble were piled up in the streets, particularly in ALMaghareba Street, ALQuds, ALMansoura, Street 15, Street 30, Palestine Street, Ein Ghazal and Uruba.

Shootouts increased in Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun and ALHajar ALAswad between pro-government forces, ISIS and Tahrir ALSham. Government forces failed, once again, to move into ALRija.

Fierce clashes erupted between the opposition groups and the pro-government squads and culminated in the government's takeover of ALShamat sector which was controlled by Jaysh ALLslam. Government forces also moved into ALZein neighbourhood, south of the camp.

Large numbers of civilians were trapped indoors or under rubble.

Stranded civilians appealed to human rights organisations and humanitarian bodies nationwide and overseas to urgently work to save those who were stuck under the debris and to tend to the wounded.

Palestinian activists inside the camp said dead bodies stretched across residential streets and the number of those injured could not be counted, they could not be moved to hospital amid the unabated shelling and telecommunications blackout in the camp.

Palestinian refugee Mohamed Rateb Fadl Eilouti died on the third day of the military operation as a result of an air strike which rocked Jadat Ein Ghazal.

In a joint statement, AGPS and 16 other NGOs condemned the unabated bloodshed in southern Damascus, particularly in Yarmouk Camp. The statement called on all warring actors to immediately cease fire and keep civilians away from political calculations and military violence.

The NGOs urged UNRWA and all concerned international bodies to immediately step in so as to protect civilians, secure safe corridors before paramedics and help with the delivery of aid, children's milk and life-saving medicines to the besieged zone.

The statement called on the League of Arab States, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the European Union, the Palestinian Authority, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to put pressure on the concerned parties to cease the bloody hostilities and live up to their responsibilities regarding the situation of Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk Camp.

The statement was signed by the following 16 NGOs: AGPS, the Democratic Republic Studies Center, the Day After, Syria Civil Defense, the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, the Syrian Journalists Association, Violations Documentation Center in Syria, Syria Legal Network in the Netherlands, Hurras Network, Baytna Syria, the Local Administration Councils Unit, the Syrian Network for Human Rights, Local Development and Small Projects Support, Women Now for Development, Badael and Syrian Women Network.

The Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (FIDDER) called on regional and international powers to combine forces for achieve an immediate cessation of hostilities in Yarmouk Camp and the Syrian territories.

The association condemned the military escalation in Yarmouk and urged all warring agents to protect civilian lives, facilities and infrastructure in

line with their obligations under international law. FIDDER called on the UN General Assembly, UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority to take urgent steps in order to secure safe passageways for paramedics and aid supplies.

- On April 22, 2018, the Russian and Syrian forces carried out over 80 air raids on Yarmouk, AlHajar AAswad and ALTadhamun, south of Damascus. More than 100 aerial sorties by government warplanes were reported.

Government fighter jets hit Yarmouk and AlHajar AlAswad with more than 30 barrel bombs, 45 ground-to-ground missiles and hundreds of mortar shells.

Government forces and their allies hit residential neighbourhoods with UR-77 Meteorit mine clearing tanks, resulting in massive destruction.

Pro-government squads announced the abduction of Palestinian refugee Waseem Ghneim at a crossroads between Yalda and AlZein neighbourhood. Ghneim allegedly joined ISIS some six months earlier, after he had fought alongside Tahrir AlSham.

Violent clashes broke out at flashpoints between government forces, ISIS and Tahrir AlSham resulting in deaths and injuries on all sides.

Head of the PLO's Political Department in Syria, Anwar Abdul-Hadi, said the government stepped up air strikes on ISIS sites in Yarmouk after the latter's battalion refused to yield to the terms of the latest ceasefire due to internal rifts. Abdul-Hadi said between 200 and 300 Palestinian refugees remained inside the camp while the majority fled to other destinations.

The Palestine Scholars Association in the Diaspora condemned the onslaught launched by the Syrian and Russian fighter jets on Yarmouk Camp and Damascus' southern neighbourhoods, dubbing them barbaric and criminal acts perpetrated by the Russian, Syrian and Iranian abettors.

The association called for urgent action so as to bring "such massacres" to a halt and protect thousands of civilians who are being subjected to a

preplanned mass-genocide in Yarmouk Camp and the adjacent areas.

The AlWafaa European Campaign called on all warring actors to immediately cease hostilities in and around Yarmouk and to open humanitarian corridors so as to evacuate civilians, treat the wounded and bury the dead.

- **On April 23, 2018**, Syrian and Russian fighter jets launched 160 air strikes on Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun, ALKadam and ALHajar ALAswad. 42 surface-to-surface missiles and dozens of barrel bombs hit the area. Violent shootouts occurred between ISIS and pro-government forces at Yarmouk

and ALKadam flashpoints. A number of civilians were injured. Fires broke out at civilian homes. Leaflets urging ISIS fighters to surrender and turn themselves in were dropped by government helicopters on ISIS sites in Yarmouk and ALHajar ALAswad.

Activists told AGPS that dozens of civilians who were wheelchair users or sick risked their lives in their quest for urgent medical care. The activists called on the Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations to urgently step in so as to save women, the elderly and sick without further delay.

- **On April 24, 2018**, the Syrian and Russian warplanes launched over 85 air raids on Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun neighbourhood, ALHajar and ALKadam. 24 barrel bombs and 23 ground-to-ground missiles were dropped.

Six persons were pronounced dead. The area was destroyed.

Leaders of the Coalition of Palestinian Resistance Forces denounced reports of the mass destruction inflicted on the camp as a result of the government's campaign.

Activists in nearby towns appealed to all national and international relief institutions to rescue dozens of families displaced from Yarmouk who were now in Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem, after they fled the deadly shelling which had not stopped in 6 days.

Those who managed to escape from the camp could not carry their personal belongings or money to purchase basic items. At the time, government forces had been cordoning off all the main entrances to the camp for over 1,740 days (nearly 5 years).

- On April 25, 2018, heavy shelling rocked Yarmouk Camp and resulted in heavy damage around the Uruba Street. Syrian and Russian warplanes launched over 85 air strikes on the camp and its southern areas. 30 barrel bombs targeted Yarmouk, AlHajar AlAswad area and the outskirts of the towns of Yalda and AlKadam. 56 ground-to-ground missiles and dozens of mortars were dropped on the area. Civilian premises sustained massive destruction and homes were burned down.

At the same time, fierce shootouts erupted in AlKadam neighbourhood, AlShuhadaa crossroads in Palestine Street, AlHajar AlAswad and ALTadhmun neighbourhood. At around noon, a state of relative calm was documented amid emerging reports that negotiations were ongoing between ISIS and the Syrian government.

- ISIS released Palestinian refugee Bahaa Abu Kharroub after detaining him for four months over allegations of cooperation with their rival Tahrir AlSham.
- Secretary of the Coalition of Palestinian Resistance Forces in Syria, Khaled Abdul Majid, told Syria's state-run TV channel that the coalition's central leadership will take all necessary measures to allow the return of Palestinian and Syrian families to the camp and adjacent areas.

Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas appealed to all warring actors to keep Palestinian refugees safe from simmering hostilities and mourned

Yarmouk residents killed in the warfare.

A joint statement issued by dozens of journalists and Palestinian and Syrian activists condemned the deadly onslaughts launched by Syrian government forces on Yarmouk and adjacent areas, holding the government responsible for the bloodshed and destruction wrought on Yarmouk and dubbing the camp an embattled “military zone” that had been lying under a crippling siege since late 2012.

- **On April 26, 2018**, sporadic shelling rocked Yarmouk Camp. Due to bad weather conditions only a handful of Syrian and Russian warplanes were hovering over the territory. Heavy rains showered the area.

At the same time, pro-government forces struck AlZein neighbourhood, south of Yarmouk, with missiles and artillery shells, resulting in heavy material damage.

Violent shootouts occurred between ISIS and government fighters. The latter also exchanged fire with Tahrir AlSham battalions near the main entrance of the camp and Street 30, to the west.

A joint report about the calamitous situation in Yarmouk was delivered by AGPS, the Democratic Republic Studies Center and the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression at the Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region. The report was also dispatched to some 40 diplomatic missions at the UNHRC. Over 600 British MPs received the report, following coordination with the London-based Palestinian Return Centre (PRC).

UNRWA expressed deep concern about the escalation of fighting and fate of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk Camp and the surrounding areas.

“Yarmouk and its inhabitants have endured indescribable pain and suffering over years of conflict. We are deeply concerned about the fate of thousands of civilians, including Palestine refugees, after more than a week of dramatically increased violence,” said UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl.

The Agency warned that the current hostilities caused deaths and injuries and have displaced around 5,000 Palestine refugees from Yarmouk into the neighbouring area of Yalda. There were also an unconfirmed number of civilians stranded in Yarmouk, who were in dire need of safe passage from the camp. Those families who managed to take refuge in Yalda were forced to sleep in the streets or in makeshift shelters.

“The intense bombing and shelling has reportedly damaged thousands of homes. There is no more running water and very little electricity,” said UNRWA. “Yarmouk’s last hospital is now no longer functional. There are no doctors remaining and healthcare options for those still in Yarmouk are severely limited if at all existent. The checkpoint into the area is closed to civilians and goods.”

UNRWA repeated its urgent appeal to all parties involved in the fighting to exercise maximum restraint to ensure that civilians are spared from the violence, and that measures are taken to prevent unnecessary damage to civilian infrastructure.

“We call for the immediate granting of safe passage for civilians wishing to leave the camp and surrounding areas and for the evacuation of the injured, the sick and the elderly. International humanitarian law must be respected at all times,” UNRWA added.

Speaking on behalf of the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Ziad AlAloul called for the need to protect civilians in Yarmouk Camp and

to launch a Palestinian national campaign to that end.

AlAloul called on the executive powers in Syria to open safe corridors for civilians and food and medicines. He urged the UNHCR to urgently step in and pressure warring parties in Syria to keep Palestinian refugees safe from raging hostilities and political calculations.

He also held the Palestinian Authority and national factions responsible for the protection of Yarmouk's stranded population and displaced Palestinians across Syria.

- **On April 27, 2018**, Syrian and Russian fighter jets launched massive air strikes on Yarmouk Camp and surrounding areas, including AlHajar AlAswad, AlKadam, ALTadhamun and ALZein neighbourhoods. Over 130 air strikes were deployed. Government forces struck the area with 30 barrels bombs and dozens of artillery shells. Over 70 surface-to-surface missiles and dozens of rocket-propelled grenades were dropped on and around the camp.

The Syrian and Russian forces also reportedly used highly-explosive grenades, believed to be internationally-prohibited cluster bombs. New types of rockets were used in the shelling, resulting in wildfires at nearly 100 homes near Safad, Haifa and Safouriya streets in the besieged Yarmouk Camp.

At the same time, violent confrontations erupted between ISIS and the pro-government forces in ALTadhamun, AlKadam and ALZein neighbourhoods. Clashes also broke out between government forces and Tahrir AlSham near the entrance of Yarmouk Camp.

Palestinian refugee Mahmoud AlBash, his wife and toddler, Rashed, were rescued from beneath the rubble in Safad Street after it was struck by

government forces on 21 April. The family had been stranded under the debris for six days, with neither food nor water.

The Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (FIDDER) and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation were among the Turkish NGOs calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Yarmouk Camp and for the protection of besieged civilians.

In a joint statement, the NGOs said Yarmouk Camp had been under shelling since 19 April and that some 3,000 stranded Palestinian refugees remained indoors and refused to leave the camp due to its symbolic position as a witness of the Palestinian Nakba which has been ongoing for 70 years.

The statement said Yarmouk residents have been left at the mercy of terrorist militias, subjected to human rights violations by ISIS and other warring actors and struck with deadly weapons at the hands of government forces. The statement called for opening a safe corridor to allow paramedics and civil defence crews to evacuate the wounded and the victims.

- Activists inside the camp sounded distress signals after dozens of civilian bodies were stranded under the rubble.
- **On April 28, 2018**, an ISIS attack targeted a site held by the opposition-affiliated Jaysh ALAbabil between Yalda and Yarmouk Camp. The attack culminated in the ISIS takeover of the Japanese Hospital. Several civilians were killed and others wounded. One week earlier, the hospital was severely damaged in the government onslaughts on the area.

Violent clashes broke out between ISIS militias and government forces at the crossroads of ALZein neighbourhood. More than 15 ground-to-ground

missiles and dozens of mortar and artillery shells hit the area.

Residents of Beirut Street fled to Babbila and Beit Sahem as a result of the deadly strikes. The displaced families had fled Yarmouk and AlHajar AlAswad for similar reasons.

Dozens of protesters took to the streets in southern Damascus pushing for the opening of the Babbila roadblock and condemning the international community's in the face of the ongoing violence.

The Follow-Up Committee of the Palestinians from Syria in Gaza slammed the systematic destruction and killing in Yarmouk Camp and its surrounding areas. The committee held the Syrian government and its allies responsible for the damage inflicted on the camp, adding that the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not live up to its responsibilities regarding the blockades inflicted on Palestinian refugee camps inside and outside of Syrian territories.

The Haifa Movement and Palestinian activists in Haifa, north of occupied Palestine, called for mobilising solidarity with Yarmouk Camp and for speaking up against the genocides perpetrated against the Palestinian people nationwide and overseas, in light of an intolerable media blackout. The activists said nearly 1,800 civilian families and Palestinian refugees are likely to have been buried under rubble.

- **April 29, 2018**, Syrian and Russian government forces launched some 40 air strikes on residential neighbourhoods in Yarmouk Camp, AlHajar AlAswad, AlTadhamun and AlKadam, south of Damascus. The government forces targeted the area with over 20 surface-to-surface missiles and dozens of artillery and mortar shells, inflicting damage on civilian homes and facilities.

- Violent confrontations broke out across several flashpoints east and west of Yarmouk Camp between ISIS and the pro-government forces.

A deal was struck between Syrian government forces, Russian forces and Tahrir AlSham. Key to the deal was the retreat of Tahrir AlSham gunmen and their families from western Yarmouk to Idlib, north of Syria, in return for the safe exit of 1,000 people, including gunmen, from the Tahrir AlSham-controlled AlFou'a and Kafria towns, in northern Syria, and the release of half of the prisoners (estimated at some 40) of Istabraq village.

- The committee, speaking on behalf of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem, said an agreement was struck with the Russian side and Syrian government forces to allow opposition gunmen and civilians to safely leave southern Damascus. Those who preferred to remain in the area had to hand over their arms to the Russian side pending further arrangements with government forces. Russian police were tasked with protecting the area while Syrian government forces had to take charge of humanitarian aid to the residents and rehabilitate vital amenities. Military conscripts were

given a sixth-month postponement. Voluntary conscription was opened up for those who wished to join the government forces.

Also as part of the deal, which will reportedly be implemented after ISIS are forced out of the camp, families displaced to Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem will reportedly regain access to their homes and shelters in Buweidha, Hjeira, AlDhiabiya, ALSayeda Zainab, AlHajar AlAswad and Yarmouk Camp.

The agreement with Russia also stipulated that no government forces are

allowed access to Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem. Their presence should only be greenlighted at surrounding checkpoints and in areas controlled by their Shiite allies.

- **April 30, 2018**, Syrian and Russian warplanes struck Yarmouk Camp, Al-Hajar ALAswad and ALTadhamun. Artillery and mortar shells hit the area, inflicting further damage on civilian homes. Violent clashes erupted in Yarmouk Camp between pro-government forces and ISIS militias.

Violence in and around the camp escalated following the heavy deployment of government forces at flashpoints between Yalda, Yarmouk, Al-Tadhamun and ALZein neighbourhood. Opposition forces handed over their sites in Beirut Street down to the Japanese Hospital to the government forces as part of the latest deal.

Five buses carrying 200 Tahrir ALSham gunmen and their families left Yarmouk Camp on their way to Tahrir ALSham-held zones in Idlib. A number of civilians refused to leave their homes and appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian factions to urge the Syrian government to keep them safe.

Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Omar was arrested by government forces on his way out of the camp through the Uruba checkpoint, heading for Yalda.

- **On May 1, 2018**, Syrian and Russian warplanes struck Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar ALAswad, resulting in material damage. Over 70 air strikes targeted ISIS sites in the camp. No casualties were reported on either side. UR-77 Meteorit mine clearing vehicles were used by government forces in the aggression.
- **On May 2, 2018**, Syrian and Russian fighter jets launched air strikes on

Yarmouk Camp, AlHajar AlAswad and ALTadhamun. Artillery and mortar shells hit the area. Fierce clashes also broke out between ISIS and government forces. Government tanks deployed near Ummahat AlMoumineen Mosque in Yalda attacked Palestine Street and ALTadhamun. In pictures released by Syrian state TV, government gunmen could be seen lifting the Syrian flag on top of Yarmouk's court building.

Activists called on the committees speaking on behalf of Yarmouk residents to take urgent steps in order to push for the protection of civilians who refused to leave their homes.

In letters to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Palestinian factions and the Palestine Embassy, the stranded families appealed to all concerned authorities to live up to their responsibilities and work on protecting civilians in the camp. The families added that those who were displaced from Yarmouk to towns in southern Damascus have been left without roofs over their heads. The letter slammed the PLO, Palestinian factions and UNRWA for dragging their feet over the families' repeated cries for help.

- **On May 3, 2018**, 10 buses carrying opposition gunmen and their families left southern Damascus through Beit Sahem checkpoint, on their way to northern Syria, as part of an agreement with government forces to secure the retreat of gunmen from Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem to Idlib, after their weapons and arsenal are surrendered to government forces.

Some 1,000 Palestinian refugees put their names down on the lists of families who agreed to leave southern Damascus and take shelter in northern Syria for fear of being arrested or prosecuted by government forces and their allies.

- Warplanes struck Yarmouk Camp. Fierce shootouts flared between ISIS and pro-government factions.

- Government forces separated AlHajar AlAswad neighbourhood from Yarmouk Camp.
- Government forces allowed 60 Palestinian refugees, mostly women and children, to enter the camp and denied them access to Yalda after they detained them for hours as they attempted to pass through the Uruba checkpoint separating the besieged Yarmouk Camp and the towns of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem.
- Residents of Yarmouk Camp and Palestinian activists appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Palestinian factions, the Palestine Embassy, and the Refugees Follow-Up Commission to take urgent action in order to protect civilians and thwart attempts to force them out of their homes.
- **On May 4, 2018**, Yarmouk Camp came under heavy shelling. Sounds of violent explosions could be heard across the camp after government forces targeted AlHajar AlAswad with ground-to-ground missiles.

Government forces managed to gain control over various sites in AlHajar AlAswad. The area was completely separated from Yarmouk Camp shortly afterwards.

A child, identified as Sarra, succumbed to head wounds she sustained in the violent onslaught on ALJa'ouna neighbourhood in Yarmouk.

- Pro-government militias stole civilian homes in Yarmouk. A video released by pro-government sources on social media showed a group of thieves leaving Yarmouk Camp while carrying equipment belonging to displaced families. Reports of theft emerged after Syrian gov-

ernment forces grabbed hold of the area and looted civilian homes. Pro-government troops stole electric items, furniture, among other equipment and transferred them to AlRija and the surrounding areas, after Tahrir ALSham fighters were forced out of the area and into northern Syria.

Jan Egeland, Senior Advisor to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, said the Syrian government is banning the entry of humanitarian aid into Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, adding that the crisis in Syria is not over and that it has spread into other locations.

He told a press conference at the UN office in Geneva that the United Nations appealed several times to the Syrian government to allow the entry of humanitarian aid to Yarmouk Camp and Ghouta, however, no permissions were granted.

The UN official warned that the increasing government attacks on Idlib and Yarmouk Camp, and the displacement of people from Eastern Ghouta to Idlib, will have tragic repercussions.

- **On May 5, 2018**, government warplanes launched an air strike on a building near the Quds Mosque on Street 15, without justification.
- **On May 6, 2018**, Syrian and Russian forces targeted ISIS sites in Yarmouk and AlHajar ALAswad with barrel bombs, killing a number of ISIS members. Fierce shootouts rocked the crossroads of ALShuhadaa crossroads, on Palestine Street, and the Uruba Street along with ALTadhamun and AlHajar ALAswad. Government fighters and members of the pro-government Liwaa ALQuds battalions were killed in the hostilities along with ISIS gunmen.

ISIS-run Amaq News Agency reported that 37 government gunmen were killed in an attack on ISIS sites. The list included pro-government fighters captured and executed at the scene.

Residents and activists from Yarmouk Camp called on humanitarian organisations, the Palestinian and Syrian Red Crescent and civil defence teams to save 15 civilians stranded beneath the rubble, evacuate the wounded to nearby areas and recover bodies from under the debris.

- **On May 7, 2018**, Syrian government warplanes struck Yarmouk Camp, Al-Hajar AlAswad and ALTadhamun.

Artillery shells and rockets were dropped on the area, inflicting material damage. Violent clashes broke out between pro-government forces and ISIS militias at flashpoints in southern Damascus. The government forces stepped up infiltrations into Beirut Street and ALTakadum neighbourhood.

Sources close to the Syrian government said government forces gained control over building blocks northwest of Yarmouk. Military reinforcement was summoned in AlHajar AlAswad.

ISIS militias claimed responsibility for the killing of 10 pro-government fighters in an ambush set up near Uruba Street.

Government forces allowed 60 civilians, including children, those with medical needs and wounded persons, out of Yarmouk into Yalda through the Uruba checkpoint, after they were detained for hours.

Activists and civilians in Yarmouk lashed out at the Palestine Liberation

Organisation and Palestinian factions for their apathy regarding the tragedy of the besieged and displaced people of Yarmouk.

- **On May 8, 2018**, explosive barrels were dropped overnight by the government fighter jets on Yarmouk Camp, ALTadhamun and ALHajar ALAswad. Material damage was reported. At the same time, clashes broke out between ISIS and the pro-government forces.
- Sources close to the Syrian government said its forces had captured Al-Takadum neighbourhood, south of Yarmouk Camp, and the Japanese Hospital and surrounding areas on Beirut Street, southwest of Yarmouk Camp. The government forces also siezed Izz Ibn Abd ALSalam School and ALBaath School for Boys along with the UNRWA clinic.

Activists and civilians in Yarmouk Camp appealed to the concerned authorities and humanitarian bodies to save civilians who have been stranded under debris.

- **On May 9, 2018**, government forces struck ISIS sites in Yarmouk Camp, ALHajar ALAswad and ALTadhamun. Civilian homes and property sustained severe damage. Fierce shootouts occurred between ISIS and pro-government battalions.
- **On May 10, 2018**, Syrian fighter jets struck ISIS sites in Yarmouk and ALTadhamun. Barrel bombs were dropped on the area. Heavy material damage was reported. Clashes burst out between ISIS and government forces. No casualties were reported on either side.
- **On May 11, 2018**, government forces targeted the camp with renewed shelling, causing massive destruction to civilian homes. Pictures released by Yarmouk residents showed the mounds of rubble which the Palestine

Mosque had become.

Government warplanes also struck alleged ISIS sites in ALTadhamun neighbourhood with mortar shells, causing material damage to civilian homes.

Overnight shelling also rocked the camp and AlHajar ALAswad. Fierce clashes flared between government forces and ISIS at flashpoints in Al-Hajar ALAswad and the outskirts of Yarmouk. Injuries and victims were reported on both sides.

- **On May 12, 2018**, Syrian and Russian fighter jets carried out air strikes on Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar ALAswad in an attempt to open ALTakadum thoroughfare, south of the camp. Pro-government squads also attacked ISIS sites in and around Yarmouk with mortar shells and missiles, damaging civilian buildings and infrastructure.
- **On May 13, 2018**, Syrian and Russian warplanes renewed their shelling of Yarmouk and the surrounding areas. Artillery shells hit ALTadhamun, Al-Hajar ALAswad, ALZubeir and Abu Turabi flashpoints.

The homes of displaced families had been subjected to theft-property by the pro-government militias. Activists said ALZahira and Sehnaya were crammed with stolen furniture and belongings.

- **On May 14, 2018**, dozens of air raids were launched by the Syrian Air Force on ISIS sites in Yarmouk and AlHajar ALAswad. Violent clashes broke out between pro-government forces and ISIS militias.

Liwaa ALQuds battalion mourned, on its official social media pages, the death of nine members who were killed in an ambush set by ISIS in AlHajar ALAswad. On the same day, ISIS claimed responsibility for the death of 40

government gunmen and the destruction of a BMP vehicle during clashes with Syrian government forces. ISIS claimed that it killed more than 800 pro-government fighters and injured dozens of others since the launch of the military operation.

- **On May 15, 2018**, Yarmouk Camp came under heavy shelling. At the same time, violent clashes erupted between Syrian government forces and ISIS gunmen at flashpoints west of Yarmouk Camp, in ALTadhamun neighbourhood, and north of ALHajar ALAswad neighbourhood.

Live photos released by activists on social media showed the damage wrought on AlQuds Mosque, west of Yarmouk, and other surrounding buildings, shortly after the government forces captured the area.

- **On May 16, 2018**, heavy shelling by the pro-government forces and violent shootouts between them and ISIS rocked Yarmouk Camp. Casualties were reported on both sides.
- **On May 17, 2018**, air strikes were launched on Yarmouk by government forces. The residents appealed to the Palestinian and Syrian Red Crescent institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNRWA to urgently step in and work on securing access to paramedics and civil defence forces into the embattled area to save dozens of civilians stranded under the rubble.
- **On May 18, 2018**, Syrian and Russian forces shelled Yarmouk Camp, ALHajar ALAswad and ALTadhamun. Pro-government forces reportedly targeted a shelter where over 30 civilians, including children and women, were taking refuge. Over 10 civilians, including those killed and injured, were evacuated as shelling went unabated in the area.

Dozens of others were killed or injured in the violent shootouts between ISIS and pro-government forces in Yarmouk and AlHajar ALAswad.

- On May 19, 2018, stranded residents of Yarmouk Camp urged the warring parties to immediately cease fire and open humanitarian corridors in order to allow the evacuation of injured civilians and those stranded in the debris to hospitals in Damascus.

In letters sent to AGPS, activists and civilians said: “We, the trapped civilians of Yarmouk Camp call on the warring actors to open safe passage-ways for a few hours to evacuate stranded civilians whose bodies remain under rubble, with neither food nor water.”

The UN expressed deep concern for the safety of civilians in Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar ALAswad. This came at a press conference held by the deputy spokesperson of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Farhan Haq at the UN headquarters in New York.

Haq said as hostilities between government forces and ISIS reportedly continued in the ISIS-held parts of Yarmouk and Hajar ALAswad, “thousands remain caught up in fighting that has resulted in civilian deaths, injuries, and displacement – with the majority of those affected being Palestinian refugees – and the destruction of essential civilian infrastructure.”

He said that since 13 April, “about 130 projectiles have been shelled on residential areas in Damascus, resulting in 16 deaths and 160 injuries.”

“The United Nations and its partners stand ready to deliver inter-agency humanitarian assistance to people in need in Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem, as well as to Yarmouk and neighbouring areas, as soon as conditions allow and access is granted,” the UN official added.

- **On May 20, 2018**, government forces denied reports that an agreement had been reached with ISIS which provided for the retreat of ISIS gunmen from southern Damascus to the Syrian desert. Syria's state-run SANA news agency said such reports were fake. Meanwhile, photos shared on social media showed buses carrying ISIS gunmen from southern Damascus to the Syrian desert, following a deal between the two sides, according to the Russia Today news site.

Pro-government sources said an agreement that was struck between government forces and ISIS gunmen in Yarmouk Camp had been put into effect. Hostilities and shelling had been brought to an end at noon the day before.

As part of the deal, ISIS gunmen were expected to retreat to the Syrian desert in batches, captured fighters were to be released, dead bodies of government fighters were to be returned and heavy and light weapons along with maps of ISIS mines, grenades and tunnels be handed over to government forces.

Soon after, ISIS burned its sites in Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar ALAswad in preparation of its retreat to its strongholds in the desert. Pictures published by Sawt ALAsima (the voice of the capital) site, showed civilian homes, which were used as ISIS sites, being burned down.

- **On May 21, 2018**, Syrian government forces declared full control over Yarmouk Camp and AlHajar ALAswad.



**VICTIMS OF THE MILITARY OPERATION
LAUNCHED ON YARMOUK AND SURROUNDING
AREAS FROM 19 APRIL TO 21 MAY 2018**



#.	Name	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Status (M/F)	Civilian / Military	More info
1	Emad Rayan	19.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in shelling on ALMaghareba Street, near ALShuhadaa Old Cemetery
2	Safwan ALZaabi	19.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	He was killed in a shelling on AL-Maghareba Street, near ALShuhadaa Old Cemetery
3	Jamal Samih Hamid	20.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	A member of the civil defence team, he was killed during rescue operations for victims of Russian and Syrian air strikes
4	Saleh Mahmoud Amouri	20.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	An elderly civilian, he was killed with his son Muhannad after a rocket fell on their home
5	Muhannad Saleh Amouri	20.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed with his father Saleh after a rocket fell on their home
6	Anas Basem Amouri	20.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	
7	Mohamed Kasem Badawi	20.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of the PFLP – GC, he died in violent shootouts with ISIS and Tahrir ALSham in Yarmouk Camp
8	Mohamed Rateb Fadl Eilout	21.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in an attack on Jadat Ein Ghazal
9	Marwan Mahmoud Akla	22.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Aged 70, Marwan was killed after government forces struck ALZein neighbourhood, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp
10	Firas Zainab	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of the Free Palestine Movement, Firas died in an infiltration into Yarmouk's college

#.	Name	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Status (M/F)	Civilian / Military	More info
11	Yassin Mahmoud Maatouk	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	Born in 1972, Yassin was killed in an infiltration targeting ISIS-held buildings at the Palestine Street crossroads. He was a resident of Jaramana Camp
12	Fuad Ghazi Hasan	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	Born in 1974, Fuad was killed in an infiltration targeting ISIS-held buildings at the Palestine Street crossroads. He was a resident of Jaramana Camp
13	Shaadi AlSaad	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of Tahrir AlShaam, he died in clashes with pro-government forces west of Yarmouk Camp
14	Mohamed Nour Emad Samour	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	Died fighting alongside the pro-government PLA forces in AlKadam, south of Damascus
15	Khalil Adnan Ibrahim	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of AlSaeka Brigade, Khalil died in shootouts between ISIS and pro-government squads at the Palestine Street crossroads
16	Shadi Hashem Ibrahim	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of AlSaeka Brigade, Shadi died in shootouts between ISIS and pro-government squads at the Palestine Street crossroads
17	Meizar Taha AlMohamed	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of AlSaeka Brigade, Meizar died in shootouts at Palestine Street crossroads between ISIS and pro-government squads

#.	Name	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Status (M/F)	Civilian / Military	More info
18	Mohamed Tareq Yehya Hal-awa	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of ALSaeka Brigade, Mohamed died in shootouts between ISIS and pro-government squads at the Palestine Street crossroads
19	Ahmad Mohamed Kasem	22.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	A member of ALSaeka Brigade, Ahmad died in shootouts between ISIS and pro-government squads at the Palestine Street crossroads
20	Khaled Adnan Ahmad	23.04.2018	Execution	Adult (M)	Military	Born in 1982, he was killed by ISIS after he was held captive following clashes with pro-government forces in AlKadam, south of Damascus. He had taken shelter in AlHusainiya Camp
21	Ahmad Alyan	23.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	Died as he fought alongside Syrian government forces south of Damascus
22	Abdul Hadi Ghoutani	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	The husband and wife were killed in shelling on Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park
23	Basima Ghoutani	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (F)	Civilian	
24	Mohamed Hadaba	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	The husband and wife were killed in shelling on Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park
25	Haifa ALHaj	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (F)	Civilian	
26	Enshirah ALShaabi	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (F)	Civilian	Killed in shelling on Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park
27	Walid AlWazir	24.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in shelling on Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park
28	Salah Hasan ALAbiyat	25.04.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in shelling on Ata AlZeir Street, near Palestine Park
29	Mohamed ALHindi	28.04.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	He died as he fought alongside the pro-government PLA forces in AlKadam, south of Damascus

#.	Name	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Status (M/F)	Civilian / Military	More info
30	Nader Jalal Ahmad	01.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Military	A member of the Popular FFLP-GC, he succumbed to wounds sustained after ISIS struck ALBattikha neighbourhood with mortar shells as buses entered the area to evacuate Tahrir ALSham members to Idlib
31	Othman Nour ALDeen Khattab	05.05.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Military	Died as he fought alongside pro-government forces against ISIS militias in Yarmouk
32	Saraa	05.05.2018	Shelling	Minor (F)	Civilian	Succumbed to head wounds sustained in a violent onslaught on ALJa'ouna neighbourhood, Yarmouk
33	Bassam ALNaji	06.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in a government attack on Street 15
34	Sami Husain Khartabil	12.05.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Civilian	An elderly refugee, Sami was fatally shot by government forces at the Uruba checkpoint where he was standing with dozens of civilians. He was buried at a cemetery in Yalda town
35	Mohamed Abdul Aziz	12.05.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Civilian	An elderly refugee, he was fatally shot by government forces at the Uruba checkpoint where he was standing with dozens of civilians. He was buried at a cemetery in Yalda town
36	Elyas Hana ALAshkar	12.05.2018	Gunfire	Adult (M)	Civilian	The elderly refugee was fatally shot by government forces at the Uruba checkpoint where he was standing with dozens of civilians. He was buried at a cemetery in Yalda town
37	Baraa ALKhalayli	17.05.2018	Shelling	Minor (M)	Civilian	The 6-year-old was killed in an air strike on Yarmouk Camp

#.	Name	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Status (M/F)	Civilian / Military	More info
38	Amer Ibrahim ALGhoul	18.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in an air strike on Yarmouk Camp
39	Dhahbiya Fahd Abu Rashed	18.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (F)	Civilian	85-year-old Dhahbiya died after her house was shelled near Palestine Mosque in Yarmouk Camp. She is a native of Tira village, in Haifa, in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1948
40	Kamal AlNabulsi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Members of AlNabulsi family were killed in the onslaught on Yarmouk Camp
41	Udai AlNabulsi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	
42	Bilal AlNabulsi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	
43	Bayan AlNabulsi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (F)	Civilian	
44	Dhiala AlAyedi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in air strikes on Yarmouk Camp
45	Wael Mohamed AlSarsawi	19.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Killed in air strikes on Yarmouk Camp
46	Mohamed Khaled Taameh	21.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	Died under the mounds of rubble in Yarmouk as a result of the government offensive
47	Samer Hasan Ramadan	21.05.2018	Shelling	Adult (M)	Civilian	



POST-MILITARY OFFENSIVE AND THE RECAPTURE OF YARMOUK

On 22 May 2018, just one day after the end of the military operation, tensions soared in the area as a result of the security mayhem, property-theft and arson by government forces and their affiliated militias.

Pictures of trucks loaded with stolen property and furniture were posted and shared on social media networks.

VIOLATIONS, KILLINGS

On 25 May, a child identified as Mahmoud ALBakr was killed by government forces near ALKarmel bakery, on Uruba Street, as he protested against the looting of his family home in Yarmouk Camp.

On 23 May, member of the National Reconciliation Committee in Yarmouk Camp and Southern Syria, Mohamed ALOmari, urged the Syrian President Bashar ALAssad to give urgent instructions for the immediate end of the looting of civilian homes in Yarmouk.

Activists urged all Palestinian factions to live up to their responsibilities regarding Yarmouk Camp and to speak out against the destruction wrought on civilians and their property.

On 26 May, Syrian government forces fatally shot Palestinian child Rami Mohamed Salman at the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp following an altercation that occurred after he protested against attempts to loot property.

Sources close to the victim's family said that he was killed in cold blood by pro-government gunmen at AlTaba checkpoint in the presence of government troops and civilians.

On 27 May, NGOs and Palestinian committees inside and outside Syria called on the international community and human rights institutions, namely UNRWA, to increase pressure on the Syrian government in order to push them to cease property thefts in the camp.

In a joint statement, the NGOs said such assaults are a serious offense to the Palestinians who have always opted for neutrality during the raging hostilities.

It added that the theft of property was part of a pre-planned policy, which had been given the green light by senior Syrian officials and their war abettors.

On 18 August, a Syrian government delegation led by the governor of Damascus and senior Palestinian officials, along with members of the reconciliation committee, raised the Syrian flag at the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp, celebrating the government's takeover of the camp and other areas south of Damascus following the 33-day military operation.

BANNING ENTRY INTO YARMOUK

On the eve of the ceasefire, hundreds of families and refugees flocked to Yarmouk's entrances, wishing they would be allowed access to homes they had been forced out of more than six years ago.

A number of families were allowed to enter the camp and inspect their homes. Damascus police chief Mohamed Khair Ismail said security forces had been working around the clock to allow civilians to return to their homes and took note of their concerns.

Ismail called on families who wished to inspect their homes to attend local security stations to obtain permits.

Activists quoted a number of families who entered the camp as stating that local authorities asked them to notify other families that they will have to prove legal ownership of their properties by the end of September. No official decision was, however, issued by the Syrian government, the PLO, or reconciliation committees.

Eyewitnesses told AGPS that dozens of families handed over their ownership documents to security offices at the main entrance to Yarmouk Camp.

On 30 May, government forces stormed three homes in Safad Street and searched the buildings, before they forced the families out at dawn, under the guise that they had received no official permits to return to their homes.

Civilians repeatedly denounced the crackdowns and blackmail they had been subjected to at the hands of pro-government militias at checkpoints in and around Yarmouk. Several residents were forced to pay up to \$150.

Popular Palestinian committees appealed to the UN to secure the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and property in Yarmouk Camp.

In a statement issued on 4 June, the popular committees called on the families to urgently return to their homes and protect their personal belongings.

The committees said UNRWA should cooperate with international bodies to secure the safe access of families to their homes and defend them against the crackdowns.

A few days earlier, Yarmouk's local committee called for securing vehicles to remove rubble and open access roads in the embattled camp.

On 26 August, a letter by the Coalition of Palestinian Resistance Forces urged the Syrian leadership and president to press ahead with clearing away debris in Yarmouk Camp so as to allow displaced civilians to return to their homes.

Pro-government sources said the letter was delivered by Mohamed AlOmari on the first day of Eid AlAdha (Feast of Sacrifice).

DECISION TO RECONSTRUCT

Field surveys carried out in Yarmouk showed that 40% of local buildings were fit for human habitation. However, the remaining structures sustained partial or total material damage.

In the meantime, in a meeting on 2 July, Syria's Council of Ministers gave the green light to a bid to rebuild recaptured zones in Damascus. The cabinet gave the Minister of Public Works and Housing the task of putting in place an plan to reconstruct Jober, Barzah, Qaboun and Yarmouk Camp, taking into account the demographic and industrial nature of each area.

Minister of Local Administration and Environment Hussein Makhoulf said instructions were given to speed up the creation of a modern architectural vision and update Damascus' urban planning charts.

Syria's Prime Minister Imad Khamis was quoted as saying that the government would take care of the reconstruction of the infrastructure. However, house owners are responsible for rebuilding their own homes.

An alleged decision to include Yarmouk in a new reconstruction plan for southern Damascus stirred widespread controversy, amid fears that the

camp would be incorporated into other areas of the capital and gradually lose its Palestinian identity.

A meeting was held in Damascus by the Palestinian factions in Syria saw Palestinian Ambassador Mahmoud AlKhalidi and Director of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees Ali Mustafa agree to preserve the structural and historical nature of the camp and rebuild it as soon as possible.

Khaled Abdul Majid said the prime minister backtracked on an earlier decision to set a new plan to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp, which he said stands as a symbol of the Palestinian Nakba of 1948 and of the Palestinians' right of return.

Abdul Majid also said experts will be tasked by the Syrian government with determining destroyed buildings that need to be reconstructed or have rubble cleared from them.

He stated that Yarmouk Camp stretches from Palestine Street down to Street 30, in line with a geographical map drawn by the Syrian government and the General Commission for Palestinian Refugees in 1994.

- **On June 5, 2018**, member of Yarmouk's local committee Mahmoud Ashmawi said reports on the government's new reconstruction plan in Yarmouk were false and that the camp was still part of the old organisational plan.

On the same day, a so-called "First Forum for the Reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp" was held at the office of AlBaath Party in Yarmouk. Representatives of Syrian and Palestinian civil society groups were in attendance.

The meeting culminated in consent to outline roadmaps and initiate the reconstruction process as soon as possible. The participants further drew attention to the urgent need to clear rubble from the camp.

- **On July 14, 2018**, a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) paid a visit to Damascus where it met with Syrian officials to discuss the situation of Palestinian refugees in the war-torn country.

Members of the PLO Executive Committee, Azzam AlAhmad, Ahmed Abu Houli, Wasel Abu Youssef, along with member of Fatah Central Committee, Samir AlRefai, the Ambassador to Lebanon, Ashraf Dabour, and Palestinian envoy to Syria, Mahmoud AlKhalidi, were in attendance. Along with Syrian Prime Minister, Imad Khamis, Interior Minister, Mohamed AlSha'ar, Social Affairs Minister, Rima Kadiri, and Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Al-Meqdad.

In a statement issued following the meeting, Abu Houli said the two parties discussed the bilateral ties between Palestinians and Syrians along with the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria and the most efficient mechanisms to rebuild refugee camps, particularly Yarmouk.

According to Abu Houli, Syrian officials pledged to work on the reconstruction of Yarmouk in anticipation of the refugees' safe return to the camp.

- **On November 6, 2018**, Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal AlMeqdad said the government officially gave the go-ahead for the return of Palestinian refugees to Yarmouk Camp and the start of the reconstruction in partnership with the PA and UNRWA.
- **On November 8, 2018**, UNRWA welcomed the Syrian government's decision to allow Yarmouk residents to safely return to their homes.

UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness said the organisation welcomes the decision, which he said will bode well for Palestinians.

He called on the international community to increase their funding in order for the agency to rebuild much-needed services, including health care and education facilities for Palestinians returning to Yarmouk

- **On November 26, 2018**, UNRWA Director in Syria, Mohammed Abdi Adar, said 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp, including 16 schools.

Adar said UNRWA staff members paid a visit to Yarmouk Camp on 20 Oc-

tober in order to inspect the damage, after approval was obtained from the Syria government.

Two technical committees were also formed by the agency to provide thorough reports about the condition of UNRWA facilities.

Adar said the agency would only embark on reconstruction projects once the Syrian government was clear about their intent to allow Palestinians back to their homes in the camp.

CLEARING THE DEBRIS

- On September 8, 2018, a meeting was held and included representatives of Palestinian factions, led by Deputy Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, Talal AlNaji, and the Director of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees, Ali Mustafa, along with other figures.

Member of Fatah Central Committee Samir AlRefai said in press statement on 18 September, that PA President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to cover the cost of the removal of rubble in Yarmouk Camp and gave instructions to that end.

The decision was announced following a visit by a delegation of Fatah's Executive Committee led by Azzam AlAhmad to Damascus on 10 August.

AlAhmad said at the time that clearing debris from Yarmouk was an essential step to allow displaced families to return to their homes safely.

- On October 11, 2018, director of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Syria, Anwar Abdul Hadi, said the removal of rubble in Yarmouk Camp was part of attempts to unblock roads leading to AlShuhadaa Cemetery.

Speaking with AlWatan newspaper, Abdul Hadi said the Syrian govern-

ment approved the reconstruction of Yarmouk Cemetery by the Palestinian government and under the supervision of the PLO.

"We've made serious efforts to preserve the cemetery, home to the bodies of the martyrs of the Palestinian Revolution since 1965," he added.

Abdul Hadi said reconstructing the Shuhadaa Cemetery was the first step towards the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp.

- **On October 3, 2018**, a meeting was staged between national factions in Syria and the committee overseeing the clearance of rubble in Yarmouk Camp at the headquarters of the Syrian National Council in Damascus to discuss the progress of the works.
- **On October 15, 2018**, Fatah Central Committee member, Samir AlRefai, slammed the statement, which he said undermined ongoing reconstruction efforts.

Member of Fatah Central Committee, Samir AlRefai, said the meeting culminated in agreements to combine efforts to boost debris clearance so as to pave the way for the smooth return of residents.

The committee overseeing debris clearance in Yarmouk said access roads had been cleared in the camp and that the next phase of rubble clearance would be launched soon. It called on all Palestinian factions, activists and NGOs to take part in the rubble clearance and rehabilitation of residential alleyways.

STATEMENTS BY PALESTINIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PARTIES

Head of the Political Department of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in Damascus, Anwar Abdul Hadi, said large funds were needed for the reconstruction of Yarmouk Camp, a process he said that would be carried out by the Syrian government in cooperation with UNRWA.

UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness said Syria's Yarmouk Camp "lies today in ruins with hardly a single building that has not been destroyed or damaged."

"Yarmouk was once the thriving home of 160,000 Palestinians. Today it lies in ruins, with hardly a house untouched by the conflict," Gunness told Agence France Presse.

"The public health system, water, electricity, basic services for life are severely damaged. The debris of this pitiless conflict is everywhere," he said. "In that environment, it is hard to see how people can go back."

The return of refugees to Yarmouk "will be a challenge," added Gunness. "The camp is largely destroyed and there is a need for the municipality to restore basic infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewage in order to allow people to reestablish their lives and livelihoods."

Quoting UNRWA, the spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General Stephan Dujarric said: "The Yarmouk Camp in Damascus lies today in ruins, with hardly a single building that has not been destroyed or damaged. The fighting has been particularly intense in the last month or more. Almost all the Palestine refugees who were there have now fled. This just points to the need for UNRWA's emergency appeal for Syria to be fully funded."

DEPORTATION TO NORTHERN SYRIA

Intensive meetings were reportedly held between government delegations, Russian envoys and representatives of armed groups in an effort to reach a final agreement about the withdrawal of gunmen from Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem.

According to the pro-government AlWatan daily, the Syrian and Russian sides put forth a proposal providing for the retreat of gunmen with their families to northern Syria and the takeover of southern Damascus zones by government forces. Those who did not wish to leave had to apply to have for "settlement" which would allow them to continue to live in the area.

On 29 April, the committee speaking on behalf of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem said an agreement was reached to have opposition fighters and civilians retreat from southern Damascus.

The delegation in charge of the negotiations said in a statement that those who rejected the reconciliation deal will be allowed to leave the area with their personal weapons and their families. Those who wished to remain had to hand over their guns to the Russian delegation.

The Russian police was tasked with rehabilitating and maintaining security in Babbila, Yalda and Beit Sahem while the Syrian government pledged to provide humanitarian assistance for those who remained in the area pending the rehabilitation of vital government institutions and facilities.

Military conscripts were given six months to decide what step they would take. Those who wished to join the pro-government army were allowed to do so if their application for "settlement" was approved.

RESPONSES

A group of civilians agreed to be transferred to northern Syria as part of the new agreement after they expressed concerns for their safety in government-held zones.

On 9 April, the Palestinian Cultural Forum was held in Yalda. Palestinian activists and civil society representatives attended the event, which discussed the latest developments in Yarmouk Camp and nearby Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem.

A statement issued at the end of the event called for forming a national Palestinian committee to hold contacts with all concerned parties to rein in the unending dispossession of civilians pending their return to the camp and to prevent ongoing attempts to exploit the displaced families as a bargaining chip.

The statement further called for working out the detainees' file, disclosing the fate of missing refugees and securing the safe exit of wounded and sick people.

The Russian police took charge of organising the retreat of gunmen and civilians from Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem to northern Syria.

DEPORTATION BATCHES

Batch	Number of Buses / Passengers	Destination	Date	Misc
1	31 buses (1,643)	Jarabulus - Outskirts of Aleppo	03.05.2018	Transferred to Ballut Camp, in Gindires, in Afrin
2	11 buses (625)	ALBab - Afrin	04.05.2018	Hurled with stones by pro-gov- ernment forces in ALByadha in the suburbs of Homs
3	65 buses (3,750)	Jarabulus	06.05.2018	Reached ALBab area in Aleppo where gunmen and their fami- lies were evacuated. Dozens of families - mostly Palestinian ref- ugees - onboard 16 buses were taken to a shelter in ALBab
4	10 Buses	Azaz - Outskirts of Aleppo	07.05.2018	
5	46 buses (1,111)	Jarabulus	08.05.2018	Kept waiting for five days be- fore they were allowed to enter ALBab



KHAN ESHIEH CAMP

The crippling cordon imposed by Syrian government forces on Khan Eshieh Camp in 2018 caused to a calamitous situation. Arbitrary abduction sweeps rocked the area, in violation of an agreement between government forces and opposition groups stipulating that civilians be protected and the blockade lifted.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp endured hard times. Civilians have been unable to secure food and other vital commodities. The situation has been exacerbated by the high rates of unemployment, frequent outages in the telecommunication network and absence of aid. Works have been ongoing by the Syrian Telecommunications Company since 12 July 2017 to repair the landline network.

Civilians kept rallying against the mounds of trash and debris piled up in

their neighbourhoods and around the main access roads to the camp, resulting in bad smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

The residents appealed to the concerned authorities to work on supplying civilians with much-needed bread and increasing the quantities of bread and flour allocated to Al-Jalil Bakery. Residents said the camp's sole bakery was operating just for a couple of hours a day, forcing civilians to walk for long distances to fetch bread.

They also called for local bakeries, which had been severely damaged by violent attacks launched by government forces over the past few years, to be rebuilt.

KEY EVENTS

- On January 7, 2018, Syrian government forces kidnapped Palestinian refugee Majd Ali Ajaj, who was born in 1996, and dragged him to an unknown destination.
- On January 26, 2018, Palestinian youth Ahmed Mahmoud Eid, aged 19, was kidnapped by Syria's Military Branch officers.
- On February 3, 2018, three Palestinian young men - Amer Taha, Mohamed Arsan





and Khalil Dhaher – who were taking shelter in Khan Eshieh Camp, were kidnapped by pro-government forces and sent to an unknown location.

- **On August 20, 2018**, Palestinian refugee Ghaleb Sai'd Suleiman was released from a Syrian detention centre where he had been kept for 30 days.

OFFICIAL VISITS

- **On September 3, 2018**, Director of UNRWA projects in Syria, Michael Amania, and a delegation of UNRWA staff members in charge of the health, relief, education and engineering programs, along with Director-General of the General Authority of Palestinian Arab Refugees, Ali Mustafa, camp to Khan Eshieh Camp, in Rif Dimashq, to inspect the vital services in the area.

The visit came in response to an appeal launched by UNRWA's Commissioner-General under the slogan "Human Dignity is Priceless" to push the international community to rally round the refugee agency in the face of US President Donald Trump's smear campaign against the agency.

ALSABINA CAMP



Palestinian refugee families taking shelter in AlSabina Camp in Rif Dimashq sounded distress signals over the poor infrastructure, water and power outages, along with the absence of health care and transportation services in the area.

The residents also spoke out against the mounds of debris piled up at the main entrances to the camp.

Civilians slammed local authorities and UNRWA for turning their backs on their appeals for the clearance of rubble and for reneging on their promises to ease their access to their homes and rehabilitate infrastructure.

The residents further warned of the repercussions of the sanitation crisis and poor hygiene on their children.

At the same time, an acute water crisis continued to rock AlSabina Camp. Residents said they had been forced to purchase water from local water tanks at high prices.

The sudden price hikes along with the high rates of unemployment and poverty added to residents' woes.



Residents of AlSabina Camp also said they have been overburdened by the cost of buses carrying passengers to Damascus.

OFFICIAL VISITS

UNRWA's deputy director-general visited AlSabina Camp and its adjacent areas to assess the situation of the health and educational facilities. The UN official also inspected UNRWA premises along with the main water tank and wells.

EDUCATION

On 28 February, the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief (CAPR), in partnership with UNRWA, carried out activities for children and students taking shelter in the camp as part of a psychological support program.

PROTEST MOVES

Dozens of civilians took to the streets on 18 May, in solidarity with Palestinians living in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip and to speak up against Israeli military's crimes against peaceful protesters.

ALHUSAINIYA CAMP

Residents of AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, strongly condemned the uncontrolled possession of weapons by pro-government gunmen.

In a letter emailed to AGPS, a resident of AlHusainiya said militias had been firing indiscriminately during celebrations or wedding parties held in the camp, resulting in injuries among civilians. The residents called for disarming the camp and defending civilians against the uncontrolled possession of arms.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Poor infrastructure, piles of rubbish, the spread of rodents, poor hygiene, made life unbearable in AlHusainiya Camp. The residents kept denouncing the power cuts and the dearth in drinking-water supplies in the area. Palestinians taking refuge in AlHusainiya Camp warned excavation work carried





out to install a sanitation network in the area had left their children at risk of falling into holes dug up all along AlHusainiya's access roads and outside UNRWA-run schools.

The residents said the holes were a serious threat to pedestrians and vehicles at nightfall due to the absence of road signs indicating that road works are being carried out. Palestinian families highlighted their concerns to the local municipality saying it had breached safety standards, urging the mayor to push for serious action to close the holes without further delay.

The residents also continued to rally against the outages affecting the telecommunications network in the camp for three weeks. An activist said local authorities

had turned their backs on civilians' appeals.

Civilians further sounded distress signals over the acute shortage of bread, saying they have been forced to line up on an almost daily basis in long queues and under scorching heat outside of local bakeries or to walk for long distances in the hunt for bread to feed their starving children.

They called for the need to increase bread supplies to local bakeries, saying dishonest bakers had been loading mini-buses with the bread and selling it elsewhere at high prices.

Refugees also denounced the mistreatment of residents by bakery staff.

Residents also slammed the Ministry of Supply and local authorities for their lack of authority over untrustworthy merchants and rising prices, which have left them overburdened during a period when unemployment was very high.

EDUCATION

Residents of AlHusainiya Camp kept rallying against the inadequate and poor quality of the educational services offered to their children at local schools.

Palestinian tutors who had taken shelter in AlHusainiya Camp and who had been laid off from UNRWA-run schools for the academic year 2018/2019 called on the refugee agency to reconsider its recruitment mechanisms regarding teaching staff in AlHusainiya and appoint instructors who had now taken refuge in the camp.

In a letter circulated on social media, an instructor wondered why UNRWA downsized the number of employees from AlHusainiya Camp who were appointed in 2016 and brought in others from outside the camp.

He said AlHusainiya students are taught better by local instructors for they are best qualified to determine students' required input and provide them with catch-up sessions if needed.

At the same time, students enrolled at AlAqsa School, run by UNRWA, in AlHusainiya refugee camp called on UNRWA and the other concerned authorities to work on securing a means of transport to and from the school.

The residents said they have been forced to accompany their children at daybreak and fetch them from school after the end of the morning shift. Long distances and scorching heat made the situation quite exhausting both for the students and their families.

Another resident said she found no other choice other than to move her daughter to a state-run school in AlSayeda Zainab for fear that her daughter

might be kidnapped or harassed on her way to school.

On 26 September, residents of AlHusainiya Camp denounced teachers in UNRWA-run school who they said beat their children with sticks.



JARAMANA CAMP

The situation was relatively calm in Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees in 2018. However, sporadic shelling rocked the area.

On 20 February, over eight mortar shells fired by opposition forces stationed in Ghouta struck the camp killing Palestinian youth Zaher Brou, 14-year-old Kusay Haythem Hamadi Mohamed and 15-year-old Bahaa Al-Deen Muhannad Hamadi Mohamed



LIVING CONDITIONS

Residents of Jaramana Camp called for help to face the dire socio-economic conditions; high unemployment rates, poor infrastructure, rising rents and the chronic water crisis rocking the area.

Civilians complained about poor sanitation and improper sewage disposal as a result of frequent blackouts and maintenance works in the area.

Displaced families warned of the life-threatening diseases spread by rodents and the unpleasant smells stemming from contaminated sewage which was collecting near their refugee camp. Frequent power outages has exacerbated the situation.



KHAN DANNUN CAMP

Residents of Khan Dannun Camp endured abject living conditions as a result of the rise in prices, lack of basic services and water and power blackouts, among other issues they faced.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun deteriorated sharply due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates brought on by the raging war. A transportation crisis made

conditions worse.

On more than one occasion, civilians protested against the mounds of rubbish and rubble that had piled up in civilian neighbourhoods and around the main access roads to the camp, result-



ing in bed smells and the spread of life-threatening diseases and rodents.

Residents of Khan Dannun Camp also spoke out against the absence of a municipal council to keep track of the dire conditions refugees were being forced to live under and take note of their most urgent needs.

The residents also often set off alarm bells over the acute water crisis rocking the camp, forcing civilians to purchase water from privately-owned tanks at high prices.

Residents ceaselessly appealed to government institutions and UNRWA to urgently step in and manage the crisis as soon as possible.

They also denounced the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it was unfit for human consumption; holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis



ALSAYEDA ZEINAB CAMP

AlSayeda Zainab Camp, held by Syrian government forces and their affiliated committees, was gripped by dire socio-economic conditions as a result of the high rates of unemployment. Scores of civilians fled the camp while others were forced to join pro-government battalions.



ALRAMADAN CAMP

Residents of AlRamadan Camp continued their cries for help over the socio-economic crises they had been enduring as a result of poverty, unemployment, the lack of essential items - including fuel - and the sudden rise in prices.

AlRamdan Camp for Palestinian refugees is located some 50 kilometres away from southeastern Damascus. The nearest city to the camp - AlDamer - is nine kilometres away.

On 4 September, a senior UNRWA delegation and representatives of the General Commission of Refugees visited Palestinian refugee communities in AlRamadan Camp, in Rif Dimashq, in an attempt to keep tabs on the agency's facilities in the area.

The delegation, led by UNRWA's Assistant Commissioner-General Michael Amania and Director of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees Ali Mustafa, paid a visit to the central water tank, UNRWA's office and clinic, along with the UNRWA-run Maaloul School, and took note of civilians' demands and needs.



DARAA CAMP

LIVING CONDITIONS

Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees has been grappling with abject conditions as a result of the military operation launched by Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 which included the use of internationally prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. 80% of civilian homes and property were destroyed.

An acute shortage in medicines and essential items, along with the government's blockade on the camp, made life unbearable in the area.

HEALTH SITUATION

Soon after the Syrian government struck the camp, civilians appealed to international organisations, including UNRWA and the International Red Cross, to urgently step in and work on securing the life-saving medicines and foodstuff needed in the area.

Residents also appealed for debris clearance, the reconstruction of ruined homes and facilities and removal of mounds of rubbish.

Residents of Daraa Camp also grappled with a chronic water shortage, which began when opposition groups seized the camp and continued when Syrian government forces regained control of it. As a result, they were forced to drink from contaminated wells or purchase water from tanks at a price of up to 900 Syrian Pounds.

The residents urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation, UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestine Refugees to take serious steps in order to reconstruct infrastructure, rehabilitate water, power and sanitation networks and restore UNRWA's health, education and relief facilities.

Syrian government forces tightened their grip on Daraa residents, blocking their access to aid and cutting drinking water for months. Civilian buildings and facilities were also severely damaged by shelling on the camp.

OFFICIAL VISITS

An UNRWA delegation accompanied by the director of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees arrived at Daraa Camp on 15 September to inspect civilian premises and services in the area.

KEY EVENTS

- On January 4, 2018, Syrian government forces struck Daraa Camp with mortar shells, damaging civilian homes.
- On January 7, 2018, mortar shells struck Daraa Camp causing damage.

- On January 13, 2018, shootouts flared in Daraa between government forces and opposition groups. Government squads targeted Daraa Camp with six mortar shells, severely damaging civilian homes.
- On January 21, 2018, pro-government militias targeted the camp with a compressed gas cylinder overnight and struck ALSod neighbourhood with mortar shells, inflicting damage to civilian property and infrastructure.
- On January 31, 2018, government forces hit the camp with mortar shells. Material damage was reported.



- On February 12, 2018, government forces attacked the camp with a compressed gas cylinder, resulting in material damage.
- On February 14, 2018, fierce clashes broke out between opposition forces and government squads. The latter struck Daraa AlBalad, Daraa Camp, ALSod neighbourhood and surrounding areas.
- On February 15, 2018, a number of civilians were wounded after government targeted the camp with mortar shells. Two residents were injured with sniper bullets.
- On February 21, 2018, heavy damage was inflicted by mortar shells.



- On February 27, 2018, material damage was reported after mortar shells hit the camp.
- On February 28, 2018, civilians were injured after government forces attacked the camp.
- On March 2, 2018, missiles and mortar shells hit the camp and ALSod neighbourhood.
- On March 4, 2018, government forces targeted Daraa Camp and ALSod neighbour-

hood with mortar shells, resulting in material damage.

- On March 14, 2018, mortar shells landed into Daraa Camp, inflicting damage to civilian homes.
- On March 21, 2018, government forces hit the camp with mortar shells, inflicting damage to civilian homes.
- On March 31, 2018, pro-government squads targeted Daraa Camp and ALSod neighbourhood with two ground-to-ground missiles. Tank shells also slammed into the area.
- On April 1, 2018, government forces attacked ALSod neighbourhood with

mortar shells. Violent clashes broke out between government forces and opposition groups.

- On April 2, 2018, government forces hit Daraa camp with mortar shells and machine gun fire, inflicting material damage.
- On April 5, 2018, mortar shells slammed into the camp. Material damage was reported.
- On April 6, 2018, government forces struck ALSod neighbourhood with three surface-to-surface missiles.
- On April 15, 2018, 10 Palestinian refugees were left injured after government forces struck the camp with mortar shells.
- On April 24, 2018, government forces attacked the camp with mortar shells and anti-aircraft missiles, resulting in material damage. Fierce shootouts broke out between government squads and opposition outfits.
- On May 3, 2018, government forces attacked the camp with mortar shells and anti-aircraft missiles, resulting in material damage. Fierce shootouts broke out between government squads and opposition outfits.
- On May 10, 2018, government forces hit the camp with a ground-to-ground missile and mortar shells. Clashes erupted between government forces and opposition groups.
- On May 12, 2018, a mother and her daughter were wounded as pro-government squads attacked the camp with mortar shells.
- On May 27, 2018, pro-government forces attacked the camp with mortar

shells. Heavy damage was wrought on civilian homes and infrastructure.

- On June 20, 2018, government tanks hit Daraa Camp with mortars.
- On June 23, 2018, government forces renewed their onslaught on Daraa Camp and the adjacent neighbourhoods.
- On June 25, 2018, government forces targeted Daraa Camp and ALSod area with a ground-to-ground missile and mortar shells. Violent clashes also burst out between government forces and opposition groups.
- On June 26, 2018, government forces dropped barrel bombs on the camp, resulting in property damage. Violent shootouts took place around the camp.
- On July 4, 2018, government fighters hit the camp with machine gun fire and mortar shells. Clashes erupted between them and opposition forces.



HANDARAT CAMP

Some 150 displaced families returned to their homes in Handarat Camp, where over 90% of civilian buildings and premises had either been partially or totally destroyed.

Hundreds of internationally prohibited cluster grenades have been detected in Handarat Camp due to the heavy bombing launched by Syrian and Russian fighter jets on the area.

On 30 June, an engineering unit from the pro-government Liwa AlQuds battalion began clearing cluster bombs from Handarat Camp, in Aleppo. Dozens of unexploded cluster bombs were amassed while dozens more were detonated away from populated areas.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Palestinian refugees in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, grappled with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. A

severe water and power crisis also rocked the area. Infrastructure and civilian structures were destroyed in the camp.

EDUCATION

On 20 September, residents of Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees called on UNRWA to secure buses to transport students to their schools. The families taking shelter in Handarat slammed the refugee agency for its inaction regarding the transportation crisis in the area, which they said had prevented hundreds of schoolchildren and students from reaching their academic institutions.

On 28 October, "Umniya Project", jointly held by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and UNICEF, launched a youth development centre in Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo. Youths aged between 10 and 24 received free courses in the areas of life skills, knitting, IT skills, first aid, English language, photography, Photoshop tutorials, accounting and videography.



ALNEIRAB CAMP

Though the security situation was described as “relatively calm” in 2018, the crackdowns perpetrated by government forces and their affiliated Liwa AlQuds group marred civilians’ life in AlNeirab Camp.

Palestinian refugee Samer Rafe, a commander at the pro-government Liwa AlQuds forces, was arrested by government troops following a shootout with a government gunman at a checkpoint in Latakia. Residents of AlNeirab Camp said Rafe was once arrested on charges of armed robbery and property theft in Aleppo. At the time, Samer confessed to the charges on Syrian state media. He was released a year later.

Government forces also released a number of residents of AlNeirab, includ-



ing Asma Azam, who was freed on 19 March, one month after she had been arrested on her way back to Syria from Lebanon. She had travelled to Lebanon to visit the German Embassy in an effort to apply for family reunification.

On 9 April, Palestinian refugee Samir Hounari, who served as AlNeirab Camp spokesperson for five years, was released from a government detention centre where he had been held for three months over allegations of smuggling wanted persons out of the camp.

On 13 June, Palestinian refugee Tareq Mseibas was released from a government prison after being held for one-year.

HEALTH SITUATION

Palestinian refugee Ola Ibrahim Bastouni died on 29 January aged 20 due to medical neglect at Aleppo's Kidney Hospital.

PROTEST MOVES

On 10 March, students from AlNeirab Camp rallied in solidarity with the "Dignity Is Priceless" campaign launched by UNRWA to boost funding for the Palestine refugee agency. Kites were flown as part of the drive.

On 1 April, an exhibition of Palestinian heritage and folklore was staged at the headquarters of the Palestine Charity Association in AlNeirab Camp to mark Palestinian Land Day.

On 15 May, residents took to the street in solidarity with the Great March of Return protests staged at the Gaza fence

LIVING CONDITIONS

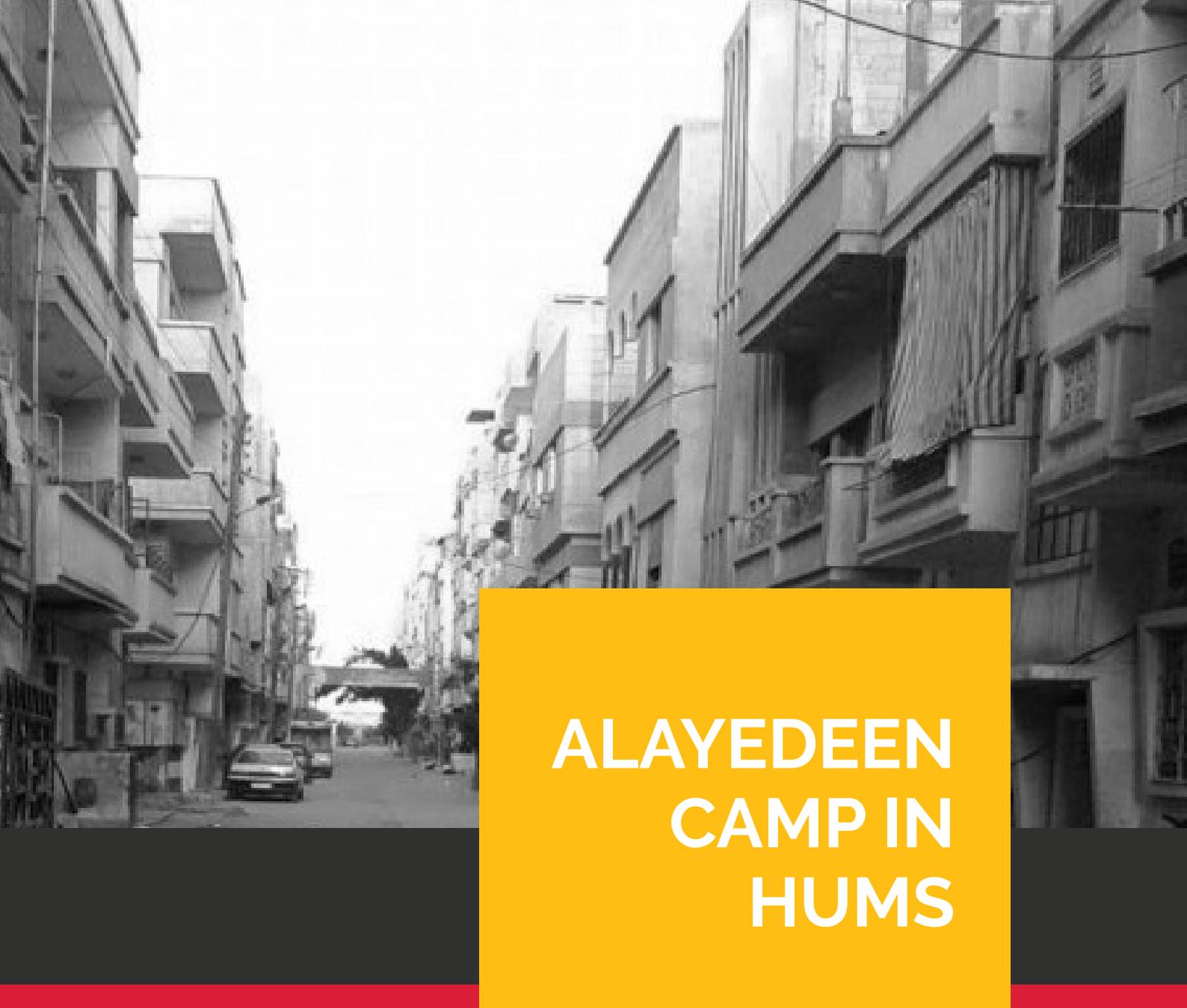
Residents of AlNeirab Camp have been grappling with dire socio-economic conditions as a result of the price hikes, high rates of unemployment and absence of relief assistance.

Civilians highlighted the crisis rocking the transportation system in the camp with buses and other means of transport suspended due to the acute rise in the price of fuel.

The increased use of unlicensed motorcycles, they warned, was a threat to their lives and that of their children. Several accidents took place after road safety rules were ignored in residential alleyways.

The residents held Liwa AlQuds members, affiliated with the Syrian government, responsible for the security mayhem rocking the area and called for holding those responsible to account.





ALAYEDEEN CAMP IN HUMS

The situation in AlRaml Camp had been marked by relative calm, compared to other embattled refugee camps across the wartorn Syrian territories. A number of residents were, however, jailed and tortured to death by pro-government militias, as emerged in reports released in mid-June 2018.

The Syrian government notified the families of 15 Palestinian refugees from AlAyedeen Camp of their relatives' death under torture. The families received the reports through the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees.

On 1 April, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Amer Azam Hasan Darwish, born in 1985, was arrested by government forces without warning. Darwish, a native of AlShajara village in occupied Palestine, was a volunteer at the

camp's Bisan Clinic.

On 9 June, five staff members of Bisan Clinic, in ALAyedeen Camp, were detained by Syrian security forces.

Palestinian refugee Maher Darwish, affiliated with government forces, was released from Syrian jails on 4 February, after serving a three-year term. He is a native of Safad village in occupied Palestine.

Palestinian refugee Shadi Bakra was also released on 15 May, after being detained for six years

RELIEF ASSISTANCE

On 15 and 23 February, the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief (CAPR) distributed cash aid to 184 families which included orphans and people with special needs.





ALAYEDEEN CAMP IN HAMA

Despite the relative calm enjoyed by residents, in mid-June 2018 the families of 20 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in ALAyedeen Camp in Hama received reports about the death of their relatives.

At the same time, civilians were facing deteriorating living conditions and several families relied on relief items provided by local and international charities.

On 17 September, dozens of residents who returned to ALAyedeen Camp gathered outside UNRWA's clinic to protest against a US decision to cut aid to the refugee agency.

Protesters said the US crackdown against UNRWA amounts to a political and economic war against the Palestinian people in an attempt to infringe their rights, most notably their right to return to their motherland – Palestine – as decreed by UN Resolution 194.

Residents also protested against the forced deportation and ethnic cleaning perpetrated against the Palestinian people, saying UNRWA is a legitimate body founded by the UN in 1949, thus, neither the US nor any other party can dismantle it or suspend its operations.



ALRAM CAMP IN LATAKIA

In 2018, residents of AlRaml Camp in Latakia consistently protesting about the dire conditions they had been enduring as a result of the poor sanitation network and infrastructure.

One of the residents slammed local authorities for reneging on their promises to repair sanitation networks, clear garbage which had piled up on the beach, and tackle the rodent infestation in the area.

Palestinian refugees taking shelter in the camp faced abject conditions due to their lack of financial resources, food price hikes, high unemployment rates and rising rents.

SECTION 1.2

Refugee Communities

- Southern Damascus: Babbila, Yalda and Beit Sahem
- Qudsaya
- Hittin Community
- Northern Syria
- Southern Syria



DISPLACED PALESTINIANS IN YALDA, BABBILA, AND BEIT SAHEM

A reconciliation deal was agreed by opposition groups in late April. Key to the deal was the retreat of gunmen from Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem to Idlib, north of Syria, after they handed over their weapons. Civilians who wished to leave southern Damascus were also allowed out of the area.

A number of Palestinians taking refuge south of Damascus were arrested by Syrian government forces, despite the fact that they had been security checked following the retreat of the opposition outfits from the area.

Activists said the arrests come in response to complaints filed to the Syrian authorities about their alleged involvement in the armed conflict.

Syrian government forces also stipulated that in order for Palestinian refugees sheltered in Yarmouk Camp and the towns of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem to gain access to Damascus, formal consent would need to be issued. Every person affected by this new ruling, the rules stipulated, should carry a residence permit, a residential lease and a list comprising the names of all family members. A written application is then submitted to the concerned authorities. Shortly after, a security check would be conducted by government forces to verify the provided data. The head of the Syrian intelligence's Palestine Branch was said to then provide a reply to allow refugees to enter Damascus through a checkpoint in Babbila. Charline

The violent air raids carried out by government forces during March, along with fierce shootouts between Daesh and Tahrir AlSham, led to hundreds of families from the area fleeing the area and heading to Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem. Nearly 500 families fled the camp and took shelter in uninhabitable buildings. Some 15 families were forced to return to the camp after they failed to find shelter in their new area.

ISIS had prevented residents from taking any of their furniture or personal belongings from Yarmouk Camp as they fled, allowing them only to carry a bag of clothes and a winter blanket.

QUDSAYA



Some 6,000 displaced Palestinian families sought shelter in Qudsaya, in Rif Dimashq, where they grappled with dire conditions due to price hikes, steep rents and high rates of unemployment.

The lives of civilians was affected by the manhunts launched by pro-government militias.

On 8 October, over 15 young Palestinian men were arrested in a sweep launched by the Syrian government forces in Qudsaya in an attempt to force young men to join pro-government forces.

Activists said Syrian forces set up makeshift checkpoints before they raided shops and workshops to hunt down youths for conscription. Media sources quoted activists saying that young and elderly people have been subjected to intrusive inspections.



High rents added to the plight of the refugees. Palestinians had to pay 30,000 Syrian Pounds (some \$60) per month to rent empty properties and up to 70,000 Syrian Pounds (\$140) for furnished houses.

EDUCATION

Students' families complained about the absence of qualified teaching staff and the frequent substitution of instructors at UNRWA schools, which resulted in an increase in the rate of school dropouts and the emergence of private tutoring courses at costs displaced families could not afford.



HITTIN

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Hittin, in Damascus' Barzah region, were living under dire conditions as a result of the Syrian war.

Throughout Syria's nine-year conflict, residents of Hittin firmly rebuffed all attempts to drag them into the hostilities and have kept themselves at a distance from all warring parties.

In early 2013, the community came under heavy shelling due to its strategic proximity to flashpoints and government-held zones north of Damascus.

Hittin community is bordered from the west by the Syrian Scientific Research Centre compound, where machineguns and mortars were stationed. To the east is Barzah AlBalad, which was under the control of the battalions of the Free Army (affiliated with the opposition).



NORTHERN SYRIA

Hundreds of Palestinian families were forcibly deported to northern Syria, others fled to the region voluntarily for fear of being forced into military conscription with pro-government battalions.

As a result of the state of uncertainty in government-controlled zones, dozens of civilian families headed for de-escalation zones in northern Syria, following a Russian-brokered deal with the Syrian government.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

According to data by Khayra Ummah Association, operating in the north of Syria, nearly 1,292 families sought shelter in the area in 2018.

The largest number of displaced families was from Yarmouk Camp. They were transferred to the region following a reconciliation deal struck in 29 April.

An estimated 835 families fled the embattled Yarmouk Camp to northern Syria. The list includes 325 families who took refuge in Deir Ballut camp, 155 in Idlib, 75 in Atama camp, 79 in Efrin, 38 in Ma'rat ALNu'man, 24 in the camp of Sarmada, ALDana and Jericho, 45 families in Jindires and another 43 families in other locations. The exact numbers remain, however, unverified as scores of refugees attempted to illegally enter Turkey.

Some 66 families also arrived in northern Syria and Daraa and ALQuneitra in the south, as part of a deal reached in early July with opposition forces.

GENERAL FACTS

Refugee camps set up in north Syria are managed by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent.

Dozens of displaced Palestinians who were forcibly deported to northern Syria kept calling for help owing to the abject living conditions they had been suffering under in the poverty-stricken area. The situation had been exacerbated by the high rents and the absence of relief assistance by the UNHCR under the pretext that the area falls within the mandate of UNRWA.



DEIR BALLOUT CAMP

Dozens of Palestinian families displaced from southern Damascus to the poorly equipped Deir Ballut refugee camp experienced a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

The camp was a hotbed for snakes and rodents. Civilians were subjected to shortages in much-needed food and drinking water.

Children taking refuge in the camp were unable to pursue their studies as no educational facilities were established in the area. The lack of healthcare facilities made the situation far worse. Disease-stricken refugees were treated in a poorly equipped makeshift tent-clinic. Neither doctors nor medicines were available in the area.

ABDUCTION SWEEPS

Arrest campaigns were launched by opposition forces, backed by the Turkish army, to chase down activists and displaced refugees north of Syria. A curfew was imposed and tents were searched over their occupants' alleged affiliation with ISIS and links to drug trafficking networks.

- **On June 26, 2018**, Palestinian refugee Osama Abdul Rahman Ahmad, born in 1959, was arrested by Tahrir AlSham forces in Idlib over his alleged ties with ISIS. He was released three months later following pressure from rights activists and NGOs. Osama was the muezzin (the Muslim official who recites the call to prayer) of Palestine Mosque in Yarmouk Camp.
- **On July 7, 2018**, five Palestinian refugees were arrested in the Harem area, Idlib. Two detainees were identified as residents of Syria while three others were residents of Ein Hilweh Camp in Lebanon.

One of those arrested, Husam AlDeen Hasan Abdullah Hasan, from Al-Sayeda Zainab Camp, was released by Tahrir AlSham after he was held captive for three weeks.

- **On July 26, 2018**, Atiyeh Mohamed Mahmoud was kidnapped from a friend's home in Efrin by ALJabha AlShamia gunmen. The family said their son was subjected to enforced disappearance, holding the opposition groups north of Syria responsible for his fate. Born in 1994 and raised in Rif Dimashq, Atiyeh was deported along with his family to northern Syria in March.
- **On August 13, 2018**, Turkish soldiers escorted by Faylak AlSham group cordoned off Deir Ballut and AlMuhammadiya refugee camps in Efrin, north of Aleppo.

Snipers were deployed around the area and a curfew was imposed. Forces searched tents where families displaced from southern Damascus were taking shelter.

The crackdown culminated in the abduction of 12 people on allegations of drug abuse and trafficking.

The list included Mohamed AlHasan and his father, Fadi Shteivi, Samer AlAhmad, Mohamed AlAhmad, Amar Sweis, Saifo Hamou, Abdullah Hamou, Ishaq Hourani and a man known as Abu Sakhr.

Activists said the fact that the majority of those arrested took part in protests calling for humanitarian assistance the previous day was proof that a scheme was in place to terrorise demonstrators and deter future civil action.

- **On September 8, 2018**, police forces from Jindires town, northwest of Aleppo, arrested Palestinian refugee Mohamed Eid Noufel, nicknamed Abu AlThawrah, and deported him from southern Damascus to Deir Ballut Camp, north of Syria.

In footage released by activists from the camp, policemen were seen rounding up the young man amid a state of high tension among the refugees.

Two civilians sustained injuries as a result of police gunfire after the refugees protested the arbitrary detention of the young man.

Activists said the arrestee was injured and had his leg amputated as a result of severe wounds sustained south of Damascus. He was later deported from AlTadhamun neighbourhood to southern Damascus towns and then to Deir Ballut Camp.

- On September 11, 2018, Palestinian refugee Anan Khaled Abu ALAynein, aged 63, was arrested by Faylaq AlRahman opposition forces. The reasons for his detention remain unclear.
- On October 22, 2018, an arrest sweep was launched by opposition outfits, escorted by Turkish gendarmerie, in Deir Ballut Camp in Efrin's outskirts, north of Aleppo.

A curfew was imposed on the area while tents were searched. The sweep culminated in the abduction of 10 unidentified persons.

HEALTH CARE

Palestinians taking shelter in Deir Ballut, and other refugee camps across Syria, have been deprived of their right to health care and medical treatment. There were only two volunteer nurses in Deir Ballut, where neither medicines nor medical equipment were available. The closest clinic was located more than five kilometres away.

Patients with chronic diseases, including kidney and heart diseases, were left with no treatment. Three persons died of heart attacks in Deir Ballut Camp. On 15 May, Palestinian refugee Muhannad Sakhnini succumbed to a heart attack. On 18 November, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Yassin Abu Madi, called Abu Urwa, was pronounced dead in the under-equipped Deir Ballut Camp.

Abu Urwa, who was displaced from Yarmouk Camp, died from a heart attack.

- On November 21, 2018, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Khalil Al-Kurdi, known as Abu Rubeen, was pronounced dead in Turkey after his health took a turn for the worst owing to the blockade imposed on Yarmouk Camp in Syria for years and the lack of health care services.

He had been transferred to Turkey for treatment but died soon after. He had previously taken shelter in AlMaghareba neighbourhood in the embattled Yamrouk Camp.

- On May 23, 2018, Abu Aziz AlShehabi drowned as he attempted to rescue a youth swimming in a nearby river.
- On June 2, 2018, cases of severe diarrhoea were reported among children in the camp as a result of the shortage in clean drinking water and the high temperatures rocking the area.

Two cases of dehydration were reported among children. No ambulance was available to carry the children to hospital.

- On June 23, 2018, displaced families launched calls for securing milk for children in the poverty-stricken area. Milk bottles for children were being sold for \$6 and included less than a week's supply of milk. Activists said children in the camp needed 150 milk packs a week.

Reporting from Deir Ballut Camp, north of Syria, an AGPS correspondent also warned of the spread of Leishmania disease among refugees.

Coetaneous Leishmaniasis, a type of skin disease caused by *Leishmania Tropica*, is also known as the "Aleppo Evil", "Aleppo ulcer", "Aleppo boil", "Aleppo button" or "habbat Halab". It can produce permanent disfiguring scars on the face, especially of young people.

Mainly found in areas with poor waste disposal, water shortages, poor sanitation and a lack of other public services which provide the perfect conditions for the transmission of the disease. It is transmitted by infected sand flies.

The Palestinians of Syria Relief Commission in the north of the country equipped an ambulance in Deir Ballut so as to provide displaced Palestinian and Syrian families north of Syria with life-saving health services.

EDUCATION

The residents complained about their children's lack of access to education as a result of the enforced deportation they had been subjected to.

They said that even the private school established in the area is made up of poorly equipped tents that are not fit for purpose and risk collapsing in the winter. Neither professionally trained staff nor proper furniture were available at the school.

The families, who were displaced from Khan Eshieh and Yarmouk refugee camps, urged UNRWA to take urgent steps to ensure children's access to education in northern Syria.

Several vigils were held by the displaced families in northern Syria to speak up against the worsening humanitarian conditions and urge the concerned human rights bodies to rally around them.

UNRWA'S ROLE

UNRWA staff members failed to reach northern Syria as the region was inaccessible. Cash and in-kind aid were transferred to the areas closest to the north from Idlib. However, refugees were unable to reach distribution centres for fear of being kidnapped and killed by government forces.

In an unexpected move, on 28 May, UNRWA cancelled permits allowing relatives to collect cash and other donations on another's behalf. New licenses

were now required, leaving hundreds of displaced Palestinian families without aid.

Civilians protests to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which rebuffed the refugees' appeals for urgent assistance saying the mission was the mandate of UNRWA.

They called on UNRWA and the UNHCR to urgently work on providing much-needed assistance to over 1,000 displaced families from Yarmouk Camp, Eastern Ghouta, Homs, Aleppo and other areas along with displaced Palestinians who have been living in northern Syria for over five years.

PROTEST MOVES

Displaced Palestinian families in the north of Syria joined rallies staged to protest against the difficult living conditions in the poorly equipped Deir Ballut Camp.

Protesters appealed to UNRWA to live up to its responsibilities and provide dozens of hopeless families with much-needed cash aid, medical items and relief services.

Refugees also urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and international human rights institutions to take urgent action in order to improve the situation of Palestinian families in the north of Syria.

Displaced families spoke out against the acute shortage in bread and drinking water.

They also raised concerns over the diseases and hardships wrought on their children who have been taking cover in tents with winter approaching. Several families surrounded their tents with sand barriers to protect their children from flooding which struck the camps.

- **On June 14, 2018**, displaced families in Deir Ballut refugee camp urged AFAD, the Turkish Red Crescent, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, the Palestinians of Syria Relief Commission, Khayra Ummah Association and AlWafaa European Campaign, along with other NGOs, to help them.
- **On November 1, 2018**, the refugees called on the Palestine Ambassador in Turkey, Dr. Fayed Mustafa, to visit the camp and assess the humanitarian conditions being endured by the displaced families and their children.

Protesters urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation to take immediate action to help refugees.

- **On November 5, 2018**, they called on Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas to urgently step in and work on alleviating the tragic conditions they have been forced to endure.

Displaced refugees said they had fallen prey to terrorism and violence perpetrated by all warring parties in Syria, saying their situation worsened following their deportation to Yalda town, south of Damascus, and then to northern Syria.

They said they have been deprived of vital services and facilities in the tension-stricken area, most notably schools, hospitals and clinics.

- **On November 7, 2018**, Palestinian refugees in Germany called on the PLO, Palestine's official envoys and political factions to take action, including

getting in contact with Syrian and Turkish authorities, in order to reduce the suffering endured by over 300 Palestinian families in Deir Ballut Camp.

A statement by the Palestinian refugee community in Germany raised concerns over the hardships wrought on over 300 displaced Palestinian families and their children who have been taking shelter in tents as winter approached.

- **On November 28, 2018**, displaced Palestinian refugees north of Syria appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Central Council in Ramallah to take urgent action in order to save refugees before winter set in.

The refugees slammed the apathy maintained by the PLO throughout the eight-year conflict.

"Aren't we members of the PLO, as decreed by the fourth item of the organisation's charter?" one refugee asked. "Following years of a difficult blockade and undernourishment in such embattled refugee camps as Yamouk, we've been thrown into poorly equipped tents after we were forcibly deported from our homes."

The refugees called on the PLO to take serious steps and contact concerned bodies including the PLO's Refugees Department, the Palestine Embassy in Turkey, the Turkish government and UNRWA in order to follow up on the situation and save the displaced refugees before it is too late.

On Universal Children's Day, marked annually on 20 November, Palestinian children who were forcibly deported with their families to Deir Ballut Camp, north of Syria, appealed to the United Nations, UNRWA and hu-

man rights NGOs to provide them with aid.

In a letter to the UN, the displaced children said they have spent six years of their childhood times under a tough blockade, which had been imposed on Yarmouk Camp, before they were forcibly deported to Deir Bal-lut, where they have been taking refuge in tents.

The children added that they have been denied their basic rights, particularly their right to education, medical care, and relief assistance.

The children appealed for an urgent response by the UN-run bodies and concerned human rights institutions, saying serious efforts should be made to save hundreds of children who have been shivering of cold and suffering severe trauma before it is too late.

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS

AGPS, in partnership with the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), sounded the alarm over the situation of Palestinian refugees deported to northern Syria.

This came in a report passed on to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva on 19 September as part of the 39th session.

The document covered the sweeps of forced deportations of Palestinians to Idlib, north of Syria, where nearly 1,300 Palestinian families have been moved to 12 locations ever since Syrian government forces recaptured Damascus' southern zones and Eastern Ghouta.

The report underscored the abject living conditions in which displaced Palestinian communities are being subject to in north Syria; deemed the most

tension-stricken region across the country.

It further warned of UNRWA's inaction regarding the tragic situation displaced Palestinian families in areas held by the Syrian government are living under.

The document called for serious efforts to secure Palestinians' legal and physical protection.

A research paper was released by AGPS as part of the Forum of Palestinians in Europe and the Nation's Causes held in Berlin on 23 September under the slogan "We Will Not Give up Our Right of Return".

The paper tackled the calamitous situation of Palestinians of Syria inflicted by the blockade, arbitrary arrests, forced displacement and heavy shelling.

AGPS also underscored the abject conditions endured by Palestinian refugees north of Syria after they were forced out of their shelters and moved to crammed and poorly equipped camps.

On 12 October, Avaaz Organisation launched a campaign in solidarity with some 750 Palestinian families who were forcibly deported to northern Syria. Though they fell under the care of UNRWA, the international organisation, the Palestinian Authority and human rights groups continuously failed to provide humanitarian care for the displaced Palestinian families in north Syria.

On 12 October, Commission 302 to Defend Refugees' Rights called for urgent action by UNRWA to provide aid for 1,500 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Deir Ballut Camp after they were displaced from Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus some six months earlier.

Commission 302 said in a statement that the humanitarian situation in Deir Ballut Camp, north of Syria, has been disastrous, calling for urgent humanitarian action to be taken by UNRWA.

The commission warned that snakes had infested the camp, putting children's lives at risk.

It added that helpless refugees have been sheltered in tents which are at risk of being flooded by rainwater.

The commission also said that the refugees have been left without clinics, schools and kindergartens. Dozens have found no option but to walk for hours to reach a hospital or clinic to treat their sick children, collect medicines for the elderly, or help pregnant women deliver.

Protests held by refugees for three weeks running, Commission 302 said, come at a time when conditions in the camp have deteriorated. Food, clothing and mental health care provisions have all been cut, it added.

On 24 October, Commission 302 in Lebanon briefed UNRWA's Commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl about the calamitous conditions endured by displaced Palestinian families in Deir Ballut Camp, in Efrin, north of Syria.

In a letter to UNRWA, Commission 302 called on Krähenbühl to urgently visit the camp in order to assess the humanitarian situation and press ahead with serious measures to save refugees.

The commission lashed out at UNRWA staff members who had not visited the camp to identify the needs of displaced families.

It added that Deir Ballut Camp was set up in Syria, which falls within UNR-

WA's five fields of operation. Thus, the agency should supply refugees with much-needed aid; most notably foodstuff, medicines, safe shelter, clothing and health care.

PRO-PALESTINE MOVES

On 15 May, the displaced families in Azaz and Deir Ballut refugee camps took to the streets to mark the 70th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba. The refugees raised banners stressing their commitment to their right of return to their homeland -Palestine.

The refugees denounced the US decision to relocate its embassy in Israel to occupied Jerusalem and the US-drafted "deal of the century", stressing that Jerusalem is Palestine's eternal and undivided capital and urging the UN and the international community to push Israel to lift its crippling siege on Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.

On 8 July, the displaced families in AlBal and in Deir Ballut refugee camps rallied in solidarity with residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria. The protesters denounced the military attacks launched against the camp by Syrian government forces and their Russian allies.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Displaced families arrived in batches from southern Damascus to the northern Syrian provinces of AlBab, Azaz, Efrin and Idlib. Other displaced families from Homs' northern suburbs and Eastern Ghouta sought shelter in the area. An estimated 300,000 persons were displaced in 2018.

Some 696 Palestinian families were displaced from Yarmouk to northern Syria, according to figures by Khayra Ummah Association.

Hundreds of displaced Palestinian families struggled for survival in their new shelters. Families were torn apart and children deprived of the most basic of needs.

An acute water crisis made the situation far worse. The refugees protested against the concerned authorities over their apathy regarding the acute lack of drinking water, saying local tanks are not being filled often, forcing civilians to line up in long queues for hours and under the scorching heat to get just a few litres of water.

Over 325 displaced Palestinian families in Deir Ballut Camp expressed concerns over their fate as the freezing winter season approached.

Camps with poor infrastructure were then damaged by sewage which was poured near the camp. Structures built by the families to prevent sewage from seeping into their tents in AlMuhamadiya and Deir Ballut Camps were demolished by opposition and Turkish forces.



NORTHERN SYRIA



ATAMEH

Some 50 displaced families from Yarmouk and Khan Eshieh refugee camps, AlTadhamun, south of Damascus, and Ghouta kept highlighting the abject living conditions in Atmeh, where civilians were forced to purchase water at 1,000 Syrian Pounds (\$2) per cubic metre.

Civilians' lives were marred by the abrupt arrest campaigns launched by northern opposition forces.

AZAZ

Some 150 Palestinian families took shelter in and around Azaz town after they were displaced from Yarmouk Camp and areas in southern Damascus. The shortage in drinking water and the absence of relief assistance made life unbearable in the area.

ALMUZEIREEB

Tensions had been running high in Daraa in 2018 as a result of the military operations launched by Syrian government forces. Daraa provinces and surrounding areas came under heavy shelling.

On 8 February, the Military Council in AlMuzeireeb imposed a curfew after ISIS tried to move into the area and launch attacks on opposition sites. ISIS attacked the town of Heit, in the Yarmouk Basin, as fierce shootouts between ISIS militias and opposition outfits erupted in the area.

Hundreds of Palestinians and Syrians fled AlMuzeireeb. They had become homeless as a result of the fire battles between Syrian/Russian forces and opposition squads.

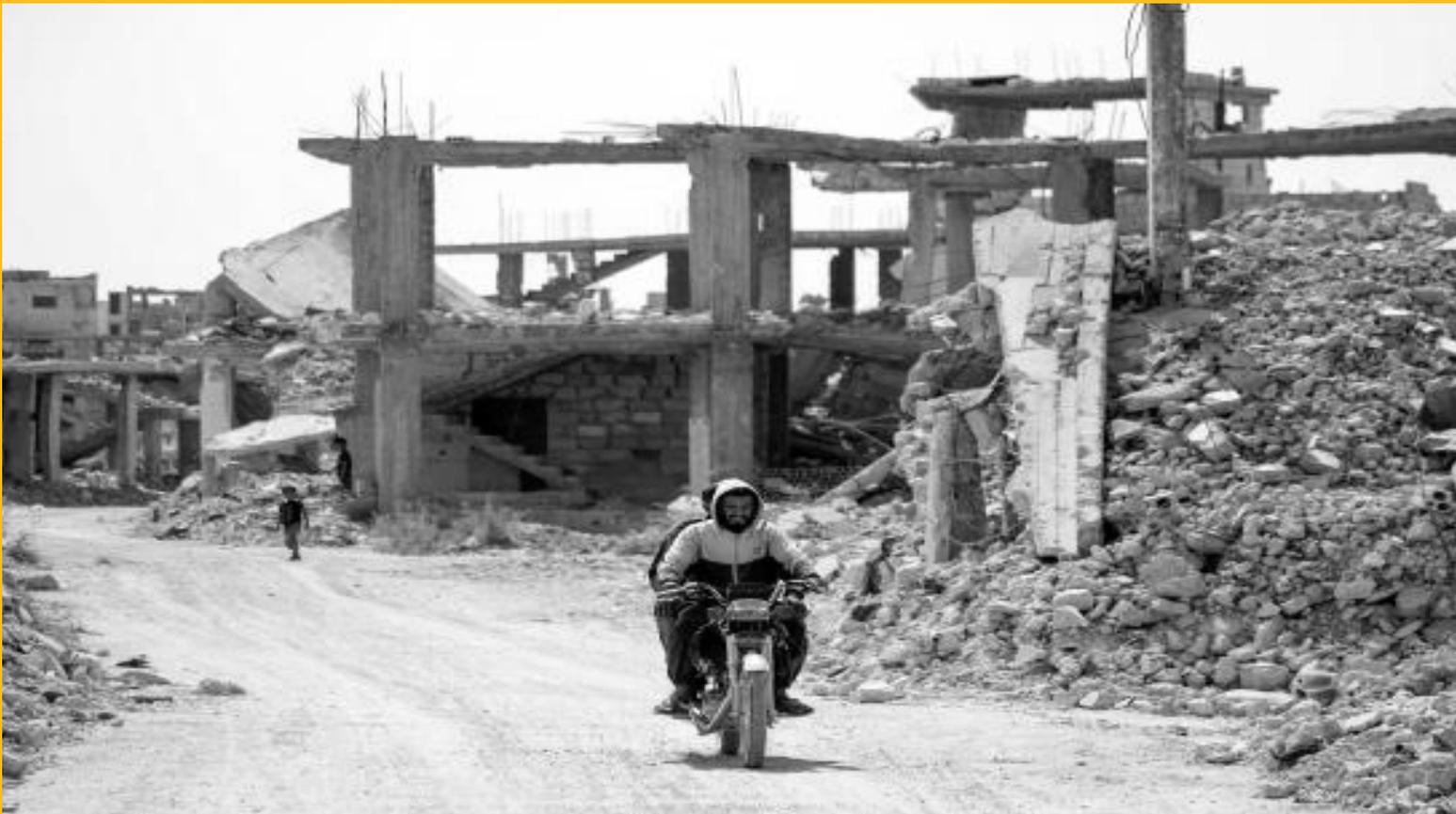
On 11 July, Russian policemen showed up in AlMuzeireeb following a reconciliation deal with opposition forces which resulted in the latter retreating to northern Syria and giving up their heavy weapons.

ABDUCTIONS

In 2018, residents of AlMuzeireeb were subjected to extortion and blackmailing by anonymous gunmen leading to a state of panic to spread in the area.

- On January 24, 2018, a curfew was imposed on residents by opposition forces in response to the abductions and property-theft carried out in the area. The curfew was in place from 9pm-5am.
- On February 8, 2018, unknown gunmen kidnapped Palestinian refugee Karim Awad Mufleh from AlMuzeireeb. He was released 10 days later.
- On February 12, 2018, veterinarian Rashid Melhem was kidnapped by unidentified assailants. He was released six days later.
- On February 16, 2018, Palestinian refugee Fahd AlNameiri, called Abu

Muhammad AlNameiri, was kidnapped by anonymous militias. Fahd is a resident AlSayeda Zainab and a member of Syria Relief and Development (SRD). He was released two days later.



JILIN COMMUNITY

Hundreds of Palestinians families were forced out of their shelters in Jilin as hostilities between ISIS and government forces increased.

Dozens of Palestinian families faced abject conditions in the area. Jilin residents ran out of much-needed food items and medicines due to the tough cordon enforced by ISIS.

According to testimonies, ISIS tightened its grip on civilian sheltered in the area and stole their belongings and furniture.

In August, a number of displaced Palestinian families returned to their homes in Jilin town and refugee camp, located in the Yarmouk Basin, in Daraa's western outskirts, after government forces recaptured the area and the ISIS-affiliated Khaled Bin AlWalid forces laid down their arms.

Sometime earlier, scores of families fled the area as a result of the bloody hostilities and shootouts between Khalid Bin AlWaleed forces and government battalions.

Located 25 kilometres away from northwestern Daraa city centre, Jilin used to be home to 700 families, mostly displaced from Palestinian territories occupied in 1948. A number of families are from the occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip.

ZAYZOUN COMMUNITY

Some 115 Palestinian families suffered difficult living conditions in 2018 in Zayzoun, located in Daraa province. Families took shelter in shacks after deadly shelling by government forces and ISIS violence forced them out of their homes.

Tents in Zayzoun were flooded during winter live footage from the area showed.

Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Abu Kasem, who had taken shelter in the area, said civilians went homeless after torrential rain rocked their makeshift tents, adding that the humanitarian situation became tragic as a result of the absence of urgent relief assistance.

Civilians appealed to UNRWA and the concerned Palestinian and international institutions to take urgent action in response to their calamitous situation.

TSEIL TOWN

Palestinian families from Damascus camps - who were seeking shelter in Tseil -spoke out against their repeated displacement as a result of the unabated shelling and deadly clashes between the different warring parties.

Dozens of Palestinian families who returned to Tseil town, in Daraa, also railed against the dire socio-economic conditions rocking the area after their homes were burgled.

The residents called on all concerned institutions, most notably UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to take urgent steps to reconstruct destroyed homes and provide humanitarian assistance.

Located some 30 kilometres from northern Daraa city centre, Tseil provided provisional housing to 120 Palestinian families, along with 40 families displaced from rural and urban Damascus and 100 families displaced from Ein Dakar, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

BUREIKA CAMP

Over 8,000 displaced Syrian and Palestinian people faced dire conditions in Bureika refugee camp, south of Syria. Freezing winter temperatures and snowfall made the situation far worse. Refugee tents were uprooted by storms that hit the area. Several families found no other way than to share over-crowded tents.

Founded on 27 November 2013, Bureika Camp is the largest shelter for displaced families south of Syria. It is located on a hill bordering the occupied Golan Heights, in AlQuneitra suburbs.

The camp is home to 1,000 Palestinian and Syrian families, mostly displaced from Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Hama, Idlib and other areas in southern Syria.

Humanitarian conditions were exacerbated by the shortage in bread and medicines along with the absence of medical staff and health centres. Mobile water tanks and vegetable trucks failed to reach the area due to road closures caused by snow storms. High rates of unemployment, the absence of transportation and steep fuel prices made life extremely difficult for displaced families.

CHAPTER 2
Palestinian Refugees
Outside of Syria



SECTION 2.1

Palestinian Refugees Outside of Syria

- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Gaza
- Libya
- Sudan
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Saudi Arabia
- U.A.E
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia



PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

In 2017 and 2018 the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon reduced due to the crackdowns perpetrated by the Lebanese authorities and the cut of relief services by such UN bodies including UNRWA. Dozens of families risked their lives in an effort to cross the Mediterranean Sea to seek shelter in Europe as a result of what they described as unbearable conditions in Lebanon.

UNRWA data estimated that until December 2016, 31,850 Palestinian refugees (12,720 families) had sought shelter in Lebanon, down from 80,000 in early 2013 and 53,077 in April 2014.

Most of the refugees live in rented homes inside camps set up across Lebanon. Rental fees are estimated at \$200 to \$400 per month.



CALLS FOR RETURN TO SYRIA

On 19 July, Palestine's Ambassador to Lebanon Ashraf Dabour called on the popular committees in Lebanon-based refugee camps to provide the embassy with the names of displaced Palestinian families from Syria who were now in Lebanon and who wish to return to Syria.

A circular released by the embassy said refugees facing financial penalties due to visa expiry or illegal entry to Lebanon will have their situation ironed out. No details were given as to what arrangements were underway with the Syrian authorities.

On 22 July, the PLO's Department of Refugee Affairs announced that it had launched an application processes in Lebanon and Gaza for displaced Palestinians who wish to return to Syria.

In a statement, the department called on the Palestinian families who were deported from Syria-based refugee camps to Lebanon to sign up at the offices of the popular committees in refugee camps pending coordination with the Palestine Embassy in Lebanon to make arrangements for their safe return to Syria.

The move was adopted shortly after a PLO delegation visited Damascus and received pledges from the concerned authorities to ease Palestinians' return to their refugee camps and reconstruct destroyed homes.

On 4 August, the Palestine Embassy in Lebanon said cash allowances would be granted to Palestinians from Syria living in Lebanon who seek to return to Syria.

ABDUCTIONS UPON RETURN TO SYRIA

On 27 August, Syrian government forces arrested three Palestinian refugees on the Lebanon-Syria border and transferred them to an unidentified location. The reasons for their detention were unknown.

After calls for their return by the Palestine Embassy and popular committees, the three were returned to Syria.

Activists called on the Palestinian factions and Palestinian Authority to work on releasing the three detainees, holding the Palestine Embassy responsible for their fate due to the lack of coordination with Syrian authorities.

Sources close to the Palestine Embassy told AGPS that Palestinian families who returned to Syria have been left on their own and that no coordination has been made between the Palestinian Embassy and the concerned popular committees.

LEGAL STATUS

On 13 July, the Lebanese General Directorate of General Security called on Palestinians from Syria taking shelter in Lebanon, including those who overstayed their visas, to attend police stations so as to work out their legal status and be issued with a renewable six-month visa for free.

Palestinian refugees from Syria reportedly lack legal status in Lebanon. The absence of specific legislation addressing the unique situation of the Palestinians from Syria has made them vulnerable to marginalisation within Lebanon, both as individuals and as a community.

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon are also treated as foreigners rather than as asylum-seekers and are, thus, denied the right to renewed stays and subjected to forced deportation.

Palestinians from Syria have been grappling with fear of deportation and live in perpetual fear for their families' safety.

Lebanese authorities rejected appeals to renew the visas of those who entered Lebanon after 16 September 2016, blacklisting them as "illegal immigrants" and ruling that they be deported immediately; in no more than 15 days.

VIOLATIONS

- On January 23, 2018, two female Palestinian refugees were arrested by Lebanese security forces on their way out of Ein Hilweh camp, heading for Sidon. The arrest was carried out over allegations that they illegally entered Lebanon.
- On August 1, 2018, three Palestinian children – 15-year-old Alaa AlDeen Asaad, 16-year-old Iyad Khaled, and 16-year-old Ahmad Jalbout, were detained by the Lebanese army in Sidon over allegations they had overstaying their visas. They were released a few days later.

The three had fled Syria to Lebanon in 2012 with their families. They returned to Syria in 2017 to sit school exams and went back to Lebanon after they received official permission to do so.

- On September 13, 2018, Lebanese forces arrested 14-year-old Palestinian student Manar Salah Abu Seyam for illegally entering Lebanon.

Manar, a resident of Yarmouk Camp in Syria, was arrested after Lebanese

policemen showed up at Al-Sahel Hospital, where she was being treated for injuries sustained in a road accident, along with other students, on their way back home from the UNRWA-run Haifa School, in Beer Hasan, Beirut.

EDUCATION

Palestinians from Syria found it difficult to catch up with Lebanon's English-based school curriculum.

Academic courses have been severely affected by the security turmoil in the country. On several occasions, frequent road closures and protests resulted in a decrease in attendance among Palestinians of Syria.

Most of the Palestinian students from Syria were enrolled in UNRWA schools located outside and inside their refugee camps. Parents and teachers looked for possible ways to bridge the linguistic gap and hold additional courses to that end.

Palestinian instructors who fled Syria to Lebanon urged UNRWA's director to reverse his calls to have them return to their schools in Syria.

They called on the UN Agency to extend their contracts in Lebanon pending their safe return to Syria.

Meanwhile, 200 Palestinian students from Syria in Lebanon took part in the third educational camp held by the International Association of Palestinian Teachers in cooperation with the former Lebanese Education Minister, Abdul Raheem Murad.

The camp ran from 29 July to 11 August at Dar AlHanan orphanage, in western Bekaa.

English language courses, robotics clubs, Mathematics bootcamps, painting workshops and other activities were held as part of the camp so as to boost students' self-confidence and intellectual output.

SUCCESS STORIES

- On February 5, 2018, Palestinian student from Syria, Nidhal Mahmoud Al-Abtah, who lived in Yarmouk Camp, was nominated "student model" at ALSamoua School, in Ein ALHilweh refugee camp, south of Lebanon.
- On March 17, 2018, 10 Palestinian students from the Palestine Hope team won the first prize at a competition held the day before at Note Dame de Louaizé University (NDU) in Beirut. 100 students from 10 different teams took part in the contest.

- On March 28, 2018, Palestinian instructor Abdul Karim Ibrahim Mohamed ALKhatib, from Yarmouk Camp, received the best instructor award, sent from Ramallah, in recognition of his innovative teaching methods.



Abdul Karim, sheltered in Nahr Al-Bared refugee camp, in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, worked as a teacher at UNRWA's Manara School for Boys. He received a BA in Arabic and English from Damascus University and worked at UNRWA's Tabaghah School in Yarmouk Camp.

- Palestinian girl, Bisan Esam Khuza'i, received the highest score in the Basic Education exams for 2018 at AlAbrar Educational Centre in Lebanon's western AlBekaa region.



Born and raised in AlSayeda Zainab Camp in Syria, Bisan and her family fled to Lebanon in 2012, one year after her father died in the war in Syria. Her dream is to become a surgeon and tend to the wounded in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip and other war-stricken zones.

In 2017, Bisan was honoured for attaining the highest grades in school, allowing her to move onto the next year without sitting exams in the final semester.

- Duaa Mahmoud AlBekai, from Yarmouk Camp, also passed the Basic School exams with an honour. She snatched the first rank at UNRWA's Al-Jarmak School, in AlBekaa.
- Palestinian student from Syria Jala Khaled AlKhatib achieved outstanding results as part of the Eighth Grade Basic School exams held at Beit Jala private school in Sibliin, in AlKharroub region south of Lebanon. She attained the top marks in her school. Her brother, Jawad, also obtained first place in the Second Year primary school exams in Sidon and AlKharroub region. He came 6th place across Lebanon.

Fifteen-year-old Jala was born and raised in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus. She moved to Lebanon with her family in 2013, fleeing war-torn Syria.

HEALTH CARE

Displaced Syrian and Palestinian refugees who fled Syria kept highlighting the poor-quality health care available to them and lack of relief assistance in Lebanon.

UNRWA continued to provide primary health care, both preventative and curative, to registered Palestine refugees from Syria, however several appeals for urgent treatment were launched by sick refugees and their families.

- On January 19, 2018, Palestinian toddler Celine Aziz, who had been admitted to Kasab Hospital in Sidon, died of pneumonia, after her family failed to raise the funds needed for her treatment.
- In appeals emailed to AGPS, Palestinian refugee from Syria Aya Tayseer Shehada, born in 1998, warned of a paralysis that might infect her right



leg as a result of medical negligence. Aya was a resident of Yarmouk Camp before she fled to Lebanon.

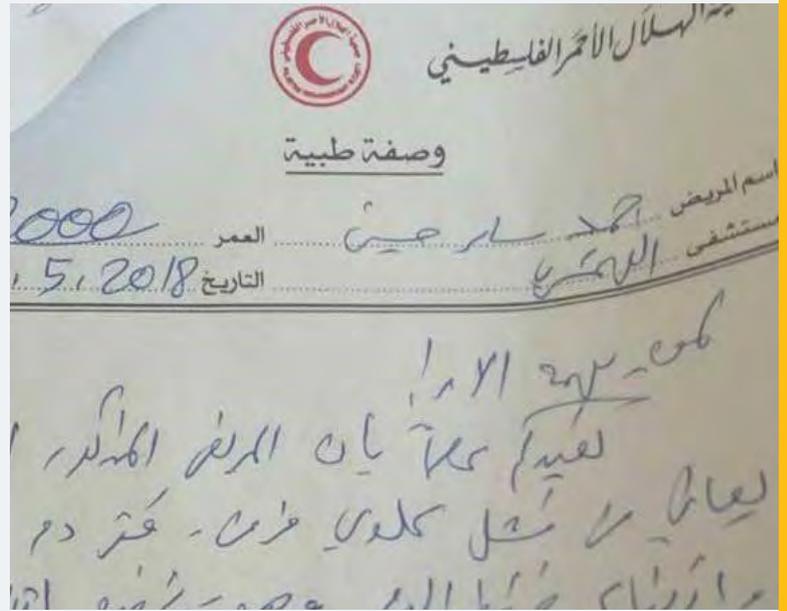
- Palestinian refugee from Syria, Tayseer Abdullah Mohamed AlOmar, appealed for urgent treatment and check-ups.

Tayseer, who was displaced from Yarmouk Camp to Ein AlHilweh in Lebanon kept appealing for an urgent pulmonary endoscopy and called on UNRWA, the Palestine Embassy in Lebanon and local charities to help him with the cost of treatment.

- On May 4, 2018, the family of Palestinian refugee from Syria Ahmad Samer Husain called on relief institutions, UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy in Lebanon to work on providing their 18-year-old son, diagnosed with renal failure and anemia, with life-saving therapy. He undergoes three sessions of dialysis each week.



- On May 5, 2018, 61-year-old Palestinian refugee from Syria Ali Nabulsi called for help after it was discovered that his arteries were clogged and he would need \$7,000 for urgent heart surgery. UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy vowed to provide \$3,200.



- On June 20, 2018, the family of the seven-year-old Palestinian girl Roha Shoaib, who was displaced from Syria to AlBass camp in the Lebanese city of Tyre, appealed to humanitarian organisations, the International Red Cross, UNRWA and the Lebanese Minister of Health

to work on providing their child with urgent care as she is at risk of having her tongue cut. The child two simultaneous surgeries to be carried out at the Hotel-Dieu Hospital.

According to the family, the two surgeries cost up to \$12,000. The church contributed a sum of €3,000 (\$3,295). UNRWA did not respond to the family's cry for help.

- On June 21, 2018, the family of Palestinian child from Syria Mohamed Jad'an displaced from Yarmouk Camp, launched appeals for urgent treatment, saying their newborn suffers from pulmonary edema (fluid in the

lungs) and severe breathing disorders. He has been placed in an incubator. The family said the hospital requested \$400 to keep the baby in the incubator, money they could not raise.



- On July 3, 2018, Palestinian refugee from Syria Ahmed Maghames appealed to

human rights organisations, the Red Crescent, the Red Cross, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian factions in Lebanon to



help him raise funds to save his premature baby. The father said medics at AlRai Hospital in Sidon, south of Lebanon, transferred him to the neonatal intensive care unit and connected him to a mechanical ventilator due to pulmonary disorders.

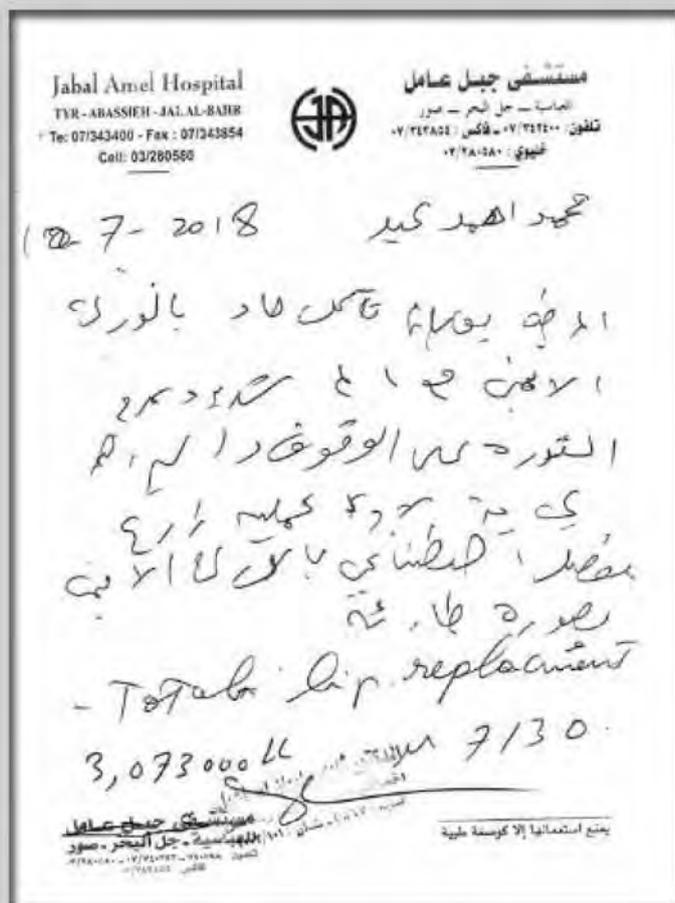
He added that UNRWA pledged to cover 90% of the fees of the neonatal incubator in which the infant was kept. The Palestine Embassy provided \$800 in aid. The father is still in need of \$4,000 to cover the treatment costs. Being a construction worker, he

had fled to Ein AlHilweh refugee camp, south of Lebanon, from Syria, where he has been grappling with dire living conditions.

- On September 17, 2018, Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Eid, aged 22 and displaced from Yarmouk Camp in Syria to AlRashidiya Camp in Tyre, south of Lebanon, appealed for urgent intervention to help him secure funding for surgery to treat his fractured hip bone.

Mohamed said treatment cost up to \$7,960; adding that UNRWA would contribute \$1,788, Tamkeen Association \$300 and \$800 would be paid by the Social Insurance Fund. He was left in need of \$5,000 to cover the treatment costs.

- The family of three-year-old Palestinian child from Syria Maria Abu Azarah, taking shelter in Ein AlHilweh Camp, south of Lebanon, appealed to all human rights organisations to cover the fees for the treatment of their daughter who was diagnosed with blood cancer. They had moved to Lebanon after being forced out of Yarmouk Camp in Syria.



Medics said Maria needed four chemotherapy sessions a week at the start of her treatment; this would be later reduced to at least one session for a period of two years.



UNRWA covered 50% of the cost of treatment; paying 50,000 Lebanese Lira (\$33) for chemotherapy session. The family needed another 100,000 Lebanese Lira (\$66) for each further session.

The three-year-old died of cancer a few months later. Maria is one of scores of refugees who have died as a result of the international community's apathy towards their plight and the negligence they face in Lebanon.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The absence of humanitarian assistance and cut in aid by UNRWA and other institutions have made life far worse for the Palestinians of Syria in Lebanon.

Dozens of displaced Palestinian families from Syria in the Lebanese territories urged UNRWA to distribute much-needed humanitarian aid ahead of winter.

Those taking refuge in AlBekaa struggling for survival in the face of the sub-zero temperatures rocking the mountainous region and the downpours which flooded their poorly-equipped tents.

- On January 8, 2018, the European AlWafaa Campaign distributed aid to displaced Palestinian families in Lebanon's southern city of Tyre.
- On January 11, 2018, AlGhawth charity distributed fuel to 200 Palestinian families from Syria in AlBekaa region.
- On March 7, 2018, AlSaraa and Sahabat AlAqsa associations handed out more than 200 food parcels and electric heaters to Palestinian families from Syria in Sidon, Ein AlHilweh refugee camp, Wadi AlZineh and Beirut.
- On March 12, 2018, in-kind aid (clothes, shoes, stationary and fuel) were delivered to 24 Palestinian families in Bar Elias, in Central Bekaa.
- On March 21, 2018, fuel and food parcels were distributed to 50 Palestinian families from Syria and 15 persons with chronic diseases. The aid was donated by International Aid – Australia.

- On April 14, 2018, the Baalbek Centre for the Beit Atfal Assumoud distributed hygiene kit to displaced Palestinian families from Syria in the Galilee camp, Baalbek city and AlMasbah, in a move co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- On May 18, 2018, the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief (CAPR), in partnership with the Islamic Relief Foundation, distributed 300 food baskets to displaced Palestinian families from Syria in Siblin.
- On June 5, 2018, the Charitable Association for Palestinian Relief (CAPR), in partnership with the Islamic Relief Foundation, held a banquet for Palestinian children from Syria in Wadi AlZineh, Lebanon. 70 children attended the event.
- On June 6, 2018, AlSaraa Association, in cooperation with the Committee of Displaced Persons, distributed break fast meals to 125 displaced families from Syria in Ein AlHilweh refugee camp, south of Lebanon.
- On June 9, 2018, Beit Atfal Assumoud distributed hygiene kits to displaced Palestinian families from Syria in AlBadawi camp, Tripoli, north of Lebanon, in a move co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- On December 21, 2018, UNRWA delivered \$75 in aid to each displaced family.

MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

- A vessel carrying 65 people from Syria, including 24 babies and children and two pregnant women, arrived in Cyprus on 20 September. The boat had been detected by radar at around 11.20am off Cape Greco in the Famagusta district. Police said it had set sail from Lebanon.

Sixty-five passengers were on board, police added, including 23 men and 18 women. The 24 minors found on the boat were aged between one month and 15 years old.

- Five-year-old Palestinian child from Syria, Khaled Nejmah, drowned at sea after a Cyprus-bound boat carrying Palestinian and Syrian migrants capsized off the Akkar coast in the north of Lebanon.

24-year-old Palestinian Nivin, 17-year-old Syrian Hesham, 22-year-old Nour and 22-year-old Hasan were among those injured in the incident.

- The "Liberal" frigate, the flagship of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Maritime Task Force (FTM), rescued 31 refugees from a boat off the coast of Lebanon.

Among those rescued were women and children who had been without food and water for three days. The passengers reported that they were from Syria and that they were trying to reach Cyprus.

Their boat had been found 41 nautical miles from the Lebanese capital Beirut. All the necessary assistance was reportedly provided by UNIFIL to alleviate the suffering of those on board; including water, food, medical care and some medicines.



PALESTINIANS FROM SYRIA IN JORDAN

On 24 August, Palestinian refugee from Syria Fahd Odeh a former resident of Yarmouk Camp, and his wife were detained by the Jordanian authorities at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman, after had been sent there from India.

His wife, a holder of a foreign passport, refused to stay in Jordan after the Jordanian authorities allowed her to enter the country.

Fahd was also detained in Oman after being deported from Jordan. He is now destitute as India refused to allow him in.

Fahd left Syria before 2010 to pursue his studies. He later married. He stayed in India to escape the war in Syria but he could not renew his visa.



PALESTINIANS FROM SYRIA IN GAZA

1,000 Palestinians from Syria who returned to the Gaza Strip faced dire socio-economic conditions due to Israel's 12-year blockade on the coastal enclave, which created the world's largest open-air prison, and the absence of humanitarian assistance by relief organisations including UNRWA.

More than 50 years of occupation and 11 years of blockade have made the lives of nearly 2 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip unbearable.

Civilians continue to call for help to tackle the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources and the crackdown on movement, which they say have made survival difficult in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a living hell as most families have lost their sources of income,



homes and property. The lack of relief assistance has exacerbated the situation.

CALLS FOR RETURN TO SYRIA

The PLO's Department of Refugee Affairs announced the launch of the application processes for displaced Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who wished to return to Syria.

Concerned refugees were required to register their personal data and hand over identity documents to the office of the Refugee Affairs Department in Gaza.

The move was adopted shortly after a PLO delegation visited Damascus and received pledges from the concerned authorities to ease Palestinians' return to their refugee camps and reconstruct destroyed homes.

Palestinian refugee Anaam Abu Shabab, from Daraa Camp in Syria, said she left her six children in Daraa and wished to return to them.

Palestinian refugee Ahmad AlHashash, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, said he wanted to go back to Syria due to the tragic state of affairs in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Department of Refugee Affairs in Gaza said over 120 Palestinian families from Syria, of the 170 who fled to Gaza, signed up at the office indicating their desire to return to Syria.

A number of displaced families expressed concern over the unbearable living conditions in Yarmouk Camp, which has not been reconstructed. They added that the situation in the besieged Gaza Strip has been no less tragic, slamming the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian government for turning their backs on the displaced families from Syria.

VICTIM

Palestinian refugee Mohamed Zakaria Al-Tatari, 27, was killed after Israeli warplanes struck multiple targets in the blockaded Gaza Strip with missiles.

He had lived in Yarmouk Camp before he returned to Gaza, fleeing war-torn Syria.

RAISING AWARENESS

The Independent Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Gaza, convened a meeting to discuss the situation of Palestinians from Syria in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The meeting, held in Khan Yunis, sought ways to empower Palestinian refugees from Syria who had taken refuge in Gaza and secure housing and shelter for them.

The meeting culminated in a decision to task the Independent Human Rights Commission with keeping tabs on the affairs of Palestinians from Syria in Gaza and speak up for them at a national and international level.

The Independent Human Rights Commission discussed with the secretary of the Gaza-based Ministry of Social Development, the situation of Palestinian

refugees who had taken refuge from Syria war in the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Secretary of the Social Development Ministry, Dr. Yousef Ibrahim, said serious and practical measures should be taken vis-à-vis the refugees. This, he added, is a moral and national responsibility that all parties should live up to.

Dr. Yousef vowed to keep up efforts to provide the refugees with vital services, including social insurance and health care.

The Follow-Up Committee of Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Gaza denounced the preplanned destruction of Yarmouk Camp, saying civilians and their property were severely affected.

The committee leveled heavy criticism at the Syrian government and its affiliated militias, who have, directly and indirectly, taken part in the destruction of the camp.

It also lay blame at the PLO's door, which it said has remained silent in the face of attempts to wipe out the Palestinians' presence inside and outside Syria.



Libya has been a stopover for thousands of Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria. The country has served as a launch pad towards irregular migration to Europe.

APPEALS

Activists launched appeals for information regarding the fate of three Palestinian ladies who fled Libya on their way to Italy on 16 January.

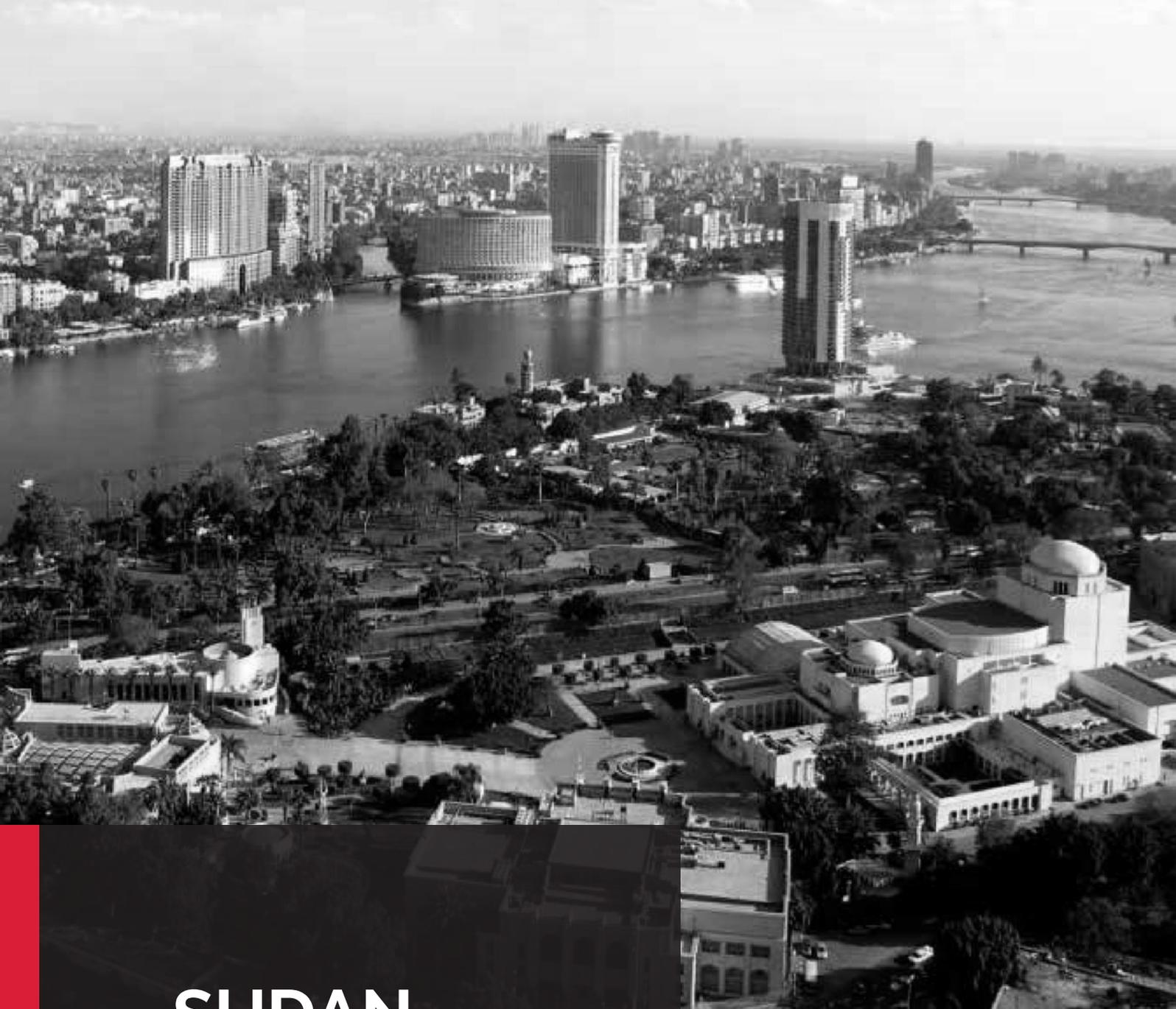
The three were identified as Palestinian refugee from Syria Maysaa Jihad Bakkar, born on 7 July 1978, Palestinian refugee from Lebanon Hana Jihad Bakkar, born in 1977, and the latter's 10-year-old daughter Narees Abdel Raouf Abu Saado.

Activists quoted the Palestine Ambassador in Italy, May AlKila, as saying that contact had been made with the concerned authorities but no progress had been made in locating the women. The Palestine Embassy in Libya said it obtained no information regarding their whereabouts.

Moroccan activist Nawal ALSoufi said she had received information on 27 June that detained Palestinian and Syrian families have been subjected to serious human rights abuses.

The activist said that a girl died of a hemorrhage after she was repeatedly gang-raped, adding that Palestinian and Syrian families were kidnapped by boats which were marked as belonging to the Libyan Coast Guard.

Their families had been blackmailed in an effort to attain their release.



SUDAN

Sudan is the only country where Palestinians from Syria are allowed in without complicated legal procedures. A refugee obtains an entry permit from the Interior Ministry at a cost of no more than \$100. However, traffickers, who have been taking advantage of the situation, continue to blackmail refugees and force them to pay as much as \$600 to enter the country.

Nearly 1,000 Palestinians from Syria have been subjected to terrible living conditions in Sudan, where they are treated as foreigners rather than refugees.

Relief institutions have failed to live up to their duties with regards the Palestinian refugee community from Syria, which has been unable to cope with the visa costs and registration procedures. Low wages, high rates of unemployment and socio-economic marginalisation have made life unbearable for Palestinian refugees in Sudan, forcing dozens to beg in the streets in order to feed their families.

Families who fled to Libya arrived in Sudan first and made the treacherous journey across the desert before attempting to head to Europe onboard the “death boats”. Scores were abducted, exploited and had their possessions looted by human traffickers and gangs.

MOROCCO

On 26 January, Moroccan authorities banned Palestinian refugee from Syria Fares Hashem Salaymeh from entering and deported him to Turkey. Fares had reached Morocco after completing a journey through the mountains from Mauritania.





MAURITANIA

On 1 January, the Mauritanian authorities banned Palestinian refugee from Syria Fares Hashem Salaymeh from entering and deported him to Morocco, on the same day as he was denied entry to Turkey from Morocco.



ARAB GULF STATES

A number of Arab governments announced their decision to ban the entry of Palestinian refugees holding travel documents issued in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and called on Palestinians taking refuge in these countries to obtain Palestinian Authority-sanctioned passports.

According to Palestinian officials, the measure serves Israeli interests and forcibly dismantles the Palestinians' refugee status along with their right to return to their homeland.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE were among the countries who enforced such rules in an effort to discourage Palestinians from seeking refuge in their territory.

Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria were denied access to Saudi Arabia except to perform the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage.

Palestinians from Syria in Saudi Arabia have been denied their right to visas, education and health care, among other vital services.

Saudi Arabia continues to opt for a closed-door immigration policy with regards Palestinian refugees, sparking widespread condemnation.

Most the Gulf countries, along with Turkey and a number of Arab governments, banned 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 not be granted another Arab nationality to preserve their Palestinian identity. At the same time, the Syrian, Lebanese and Iraqi authorities issued travel documents for Palestinian refugees in order to ease their movement across the region.

OMAN

On 24 August, Palestinian refugee from Syria Fahd Odeh was detained in Oman along with his wife and children, after he was deported from Jordan. He had become homeless after India deported him and later refused to let him in. He was granted asylum in Malaysia shortly afterwards.

Activists expressed concern over his fate and slammed Arab countries for refusing to grant Fahd's family, and other Palestinians from Syria, safe asylum.

SECTION 2.2

Palestinians from Syria in Europe

- Sweden
- Denmark
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Austria
- In Croatia
- Italy
- Cyprus
- Greece
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- India
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- Brazil



SWEDEN

Available data from the Swedish Migration Office indicates that 38,498 Palestinians from Syria had sought shelter in Sweden from 2011 until October 2018.

Palestinian activists in Sweden said more than 22,100 Palestinian refugees from Syria obtained Swedish citizenship until the end of 2018.

Referring to studies and statistics conducted by the Swedish Migration Office, the activists said as many as 14,450 Palestinians from Syria were granted Swedish citizenship from 2015 to 2017. From January to October 2018, another 5,674 Palestinians from Syria obtained Swedish citizenship.

Palestinian refugees from Syria who have stayed in Sweden for four years are eligible to apply for citizenship in the Kingdom. No other prerequisites have been set by Swedish authorities. Children of Palestinians from Syria

who were born in Sweden to a parent who holds permanent residence status are automatically granted citizenship.

However, families often wait long periods to have their applications for visas and family reunification assessed by authorities.

LEGAL STATUS

In early 2018, Sweden faced criticism from the Red Cross and Amnesty International over delays in its family reunification process.

Following pressure from several rights groups, the Swedish Migration Agency issued a decision to speed up the migration, reunification and asylum application process. As a result, applicants were able to ask the Migration Agency to decide on their fate within a maximum of four weeks, compared to six months in the past.

Some applications had waited up to three years to receive a decision on their case, causing them stress and destabilising their lives.

VIOLATIONS

Palestinian refugee Samaa Sarsour, formerly sheltered in Yarmouk Camp in Syria, said she was subject to a hate crime in the Swedish city of Uppsala.

Speaking with Radio Sweden, Samaa said an anonymous person assaulted her while she was carrying her infant in her arms in broad daylight and insulted her after he obstructed her movement.

"I should've rammed my car into your bodies, you Muslim bastards!" he had said to her.

"The man angrily stepped out of his car while carrying an unidentified object in his hands," Samaa explained. Having no one to help her, Samaa burst into tears.

She reported the incident to the police.

Samaa has been previously been subjected to racist abuse as a result of her efforts to shed light on the Palestinian cause and the right of return. She is the daughter of former candidate for the Swedish parliamentary Emil Sarsour.

- The Israeli occupation authorities banned a group of Palestinian youths from Syria who hold Swedish citizenship from entering the occupied Palestinian territories.

Speaking with AGPS, Milad Abu Issa, from Yarmouk Camp, said 25 Palestinians sheltered in refugee camps across the Syrian territories and holding Swedish citizenship received invitations to attend a conference celebrating Palestine's cultural heritage in the occupied West Bank.

Abu Issa added that the group had taken flights from Stockholm, Copenhagen and Manchester on 24 August arriving in Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. There they were detained and underwent intense questioning. Only seven men were allowed to enter while the others were questioned further.

Abu Issa said questions centred around their alleged involvement in the anti-Israel boycott campaigns in Europe, adding that investigators forcibly took away his mobile phone to search through his contacts and Facebook account.

He was questioned for 20 minutes before he received a ten-year ban from Palestine. Other members of the group were detained at the airport for

periods ranging from 24 to 48 hours.

Prior to receiving the ban, Abu Issa was dragged, handcuffed, from prison to the airport, where authorities booked him a flight to Brussels and then to Manchester.

- Palestinian young man Ayham Arisheh, from Yarmouk Camp, was shot and injured near the Damas restaurant in the Swedish city of Helsingborg.

Palestinian activists in Sweden said he was admitted to a local hospital before being transferred to another in Lund city. It is unclear why he was shot.

ACTIVITIES

On September 13, 2018, the King of Sweden Charles XVI Gustave received 7-year-old Palestinian from Syria Akram Jamal Hama who had been diagnosed with blood cancer.

Akram's twin brother and his parents accompanied him on the visit, which was arranged after he expressed his wishes to meet the King.

A video and pictures released from the royal palace showed the warmth with which the child was received by the King of Sweden.

The family offered the royals a painting drawn by the Palestinian artist Ahmed Salma and reading "Palestine" in Arabic.

Akram had been diagnosed with cancer some two years earlier and undergone chemotherapy in Uppsala.

A relative said Akram was born and raised in Syria before he fled with his father on a "death boat" to Europe seeking refuge.

- On March 24, 2018, Palestinian refugee Tareq ALHaj from ALNeirab Camp stage-directed a musical performed in Skanes Dansteater, in the Swedish city of Malmo.
- On March 26, 2018, Palestinian painters Maamoun ALShayeb, from Yarmouk Camp, Dalia Yassin and Malek Matar held an art exhibition at the headquarters of the Palestine Embassy in Stockholm to mark the 70th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (Catastrophe).
- A number of Palestinians from Syria cast their votes in the Swedish elections. Ten Palestinians from Syria also ran in the 2018 parliamentary and municipal elections in the Kingdom. This is the first time Palestinian refugees have been permitted to nominate themselves or vote in the elections.

Palestinian refugee from Syria Emil Sarsour, of the Social Democratic Party, nominated himself in Sweden's parliamentary elections for 2018. His daughter Dimah, born in Yarmouk Camp, ran for municipal elections as part of the Socialist Workers' Party.

The list of Palestinian nominees also included Osama Tamim (Leftist Party), along with the representatives of the Social Democratic Party, Jihad Hamid, Tareq Jalbout, Nidal Jaber, Ala Jaber and Jamal Sharouf.

The candidates had all been residents of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees in Damascus.

Arab candidates, particularly those of Palestinian decent, were subjected

to ad hominem campaigns waged by xenophobic and pro-Israel groups.

- On November 3, 2018, a rally was held by activists in the Swedish city of Helsingborg in solidarity with Palestinian, Syrian and Iraqi migrants who have been at the risk of refoulement and imprisonment in Thailand for overstaying their visas. Protesters raised banners calling for urgent action to save women and children held in Thai jails and for legal assistance to be provided to refugees stranded in Thailand.

SUCCESS STORIES

Ten-year-old Palestinian from Syria, Kays Yehya Ashmawi, earned the silver medal during a judo competition staged in Skane County, south of Sweden. He was a resident of Yarmouk Camp in Syria.



DENMARK

Over recent years, successive right-wing governments in Denmark - backed by the far right Danish People's Party - have opted for anti-immigration policies.

One of the following three types of visas is often granted in Denmark: political asylum, humanitarian asylum and temporary protection. The latter is valid for a renewable period of one year and its holder is entitled to family reunification only after three years.

Political and humanitarian asylum-seekers are granted a five-year stay. Those applying for permanent stays in Denmark often face red tape and tough conditions.

On 29 August, the Danish Immigration Service renewed asylum applications filed by migrants from UNRWA's fields of operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The Danish Refugee Council said the Immigration Service will re-examine 40 cases which had previously been refused and 50 others of Palestinians from Syria granted a one-year visa.

An activist who was deported from Syria to Denmark told AGPS that Palestinian refugees who have been issued one-year visas and who seek to return to their homeland face strict conditions as they are categorised as "stateless".



GERMANY

There are no official statistics regarding the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Germany.

The Geneva Convention stipulates that Germany grant nationality to those categorised as “stateless refugees”, in accordance with the German Nationality Law of 2000.

- Since the start of 2018, Germany extended for another six months the suspension of family reunification for those who have been issued with subsidiary protection status. The suspension was extended until July 2018.

German authorities introduced new measures in order to tighten their grip

on refugees and restrict family unification.

International organisations criticised the new restrictions imposed on refugees with subsidiary protection in Germany, saying they infringe on their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and The Convention on Human Rights ratified by Germany.

The German Children's Aid Association said the suspension of family reunification violates Article 6 of the German Constitution (Basic Law), and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, in addition to Articles 3 and 10 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- On April 12, 2018, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that unaccompanied “minors” who reach the age of 18 during the asylum process retain the right to family reunification.
- The State Council of Germany issued a law in response to a bill put forth by Parliament on 15 June regarding family reunification procedures for holders of subsidiary or specific protection status. As part of the move, 1,000 persons are entitled to family reunification each month. Wives, minors and parents of unaccompanied children can apply for family reunification.

The Archbishop of the Catholic Church in Berlin said the new measures make social integration difficult for refugee families and minors.

- In August, Germany sealed an agreement with Greece that will see it send back certain asylum seekers.

German Interior Ministry spokeswoman Eleonore Peterman said the German-Greek compromise will allow Berlin to take back all asylum-seekers who initially applied in Greece but ultimately moved to Germany by travelling through the German-Austrian border.

It remains unclear what Greece received in return, however, in a similar deal with Spain, Berlin pledged to curb the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

- Hundreds of Palestinian families from Syria who have sought shelter in Germany have sounded distress signals over delays in the family reunification process, which they said often takes over three years.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Germany have been separated from their families who have remained in Syria or fled to Lebanon, Turkey, or Egypt

- Palestinian refugees say, however, that the delays are part of a closed-door immigration policy pursued by the German government to rein in the influx of refugees.

Refugees from Syria who entered the German labour market complained about the low wages they received in spite of the long hours they work.

- Scores struggled to learn German, hindering their socio-economic integration.

In August, German authorities announced their intent to deport a Palestinian refugee to Syria after he was handed an 18 month prison term for breaking the law.

- The refugee said he had entered Germany some three years earlier, fleeing the deadly warfare in Syria. He had served a prison term of 18 months before he enrolled in a job centre. Just days later, he received a letter ordering him to leave Germany in 30 days and return to Syria.

The refugee said the migration office turned his appeals down.

Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law that forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

- On September 12, 2018, German authorities deported Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Mousa to Bulgaria on account that his fingerprint was first taken there.

His family said he was arrested at the Migration Office and detained in a one-square-metre cell for 12 hours. Police sedated him.

Sometime earlier, the Supreme Administrative Court of Lower Saxony had ruled that asylum seekers should not be forcibly sent back to Hungary, where they are likely to face inhuman and degrading treatment.

Under a European law known as the Dublin Regulation, migrants should apply for asylum in the first country they arrive and are registered in. Once someone is registered as having arrived in one country and their fingerprint is taken, they cannot apply for asylum elsewhere. Fingerprints are entered into a database that is searchable by police throughout the EU.

As political attitudes in Europe have shifted against asylum seekers and refugees, the number of people deported under the Dublin Regulation has skyrocketed. Palestinian refugees are separated from friends and sometimes family in communities where they have started to build new lives.

PROTEST MOVES

- In May, Palestinian refugees from Syria joined a rally staged in Munich in solidarity with the Great March of Return protests held in the Gaza Strip.

- In November, Palestinian refugees in Germany called on the PLO, Palestine's official envoys and political factions to make serious steps, including contacting Syrian and Turkish authorities, in order to tone down the crises endured by Palestinian families in Deir Ballut Camp.
- A statement by the Palestinian refugee community in Germany raised concerns over the hardships wrought on the displaced families and their children who have been taking cover in ramshackle tents.

SUCCESS STORIES

- In April, Palestinian child from Syria, Ahmed Kamel Dahbour, won second place in a local judo tournament held in Berlin. Ahmed was born in ALAyedeen refugee camp in Homs.
- In June, Palestinian girl from Syria, Kinda Walid AlHasan, received the highest score (100%) at her school in Sinzig.



THE NETHERLANDS

Nearly 12,000 Palestinian from Syria have sought shelter in the Netherlands. In late 2018, an increasing number of refugees were granted the Dutch citizenship.

According to Dutch law, a Palestinian refugee from Syria is entitled to apply for citizenship following a three-year stay in the country. Learning the language is a prerequisite.

ACTIVITIES

- In early March, a number of Palestinian refugees from Syria took part in the DenHaag cycling marathon organised by BDS and Docp.
- In April, Palestinian refugee from Syria Basel AlKhayal won second place in two bodybuilding championships held in the Netherlands.



AUSTRIA

No official statistics about the number of Palestinians from Syria are currently available as the latter are categorised as holders of unknown nationality status.

- In May, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Austria took part in a rally held in Vienna in solidarity with the Great March of Return in Gaza and Al-Aqsa Mosque. Demonstrators called on the international community to take urgent action in response to US President Donald Trump's decision to relocate the American Embassy in Israel to occupied Jerusalem.
- In November, a vigil was staged by Arab and European activists outside the UN office in Vienna to speak up for migrants trapped in Thailand. Protesters called for urgent action to save the lives of displaced families and their children who have been at the risk of refoulement and arbitrary detention. In a memorandum dispatched to the UNHCR, the activists pushed for an immediate response to the crackdowns against Palestinian refugees and other migrants in Thailand.



ITALY

Italy has served as a transit point for migrants heading for Europe. In 2018, Italy's hard-line Interior Minister Matteo Salvini announced the government's "closed ports" policy.

Anti-immigration policies prevented hundreds of migrants from landing on Italian shores. The Maltese and Italian governments closed their ports to rescue vessels, leading to a sharp decrease in rescue missions. People seeking asylum are still attempting the risky crossing to Europe, but without the rescue boats, shipwrecks are likely to rise dramatically.

In August, Salvini refused 177 migrants and refugees - who had been rescued from the Mediterranean by the Italian coast guard - from coming on shore.

Italy also called for the EU to step and force other states to share the burden caused by the arrival of migrants and refugees after more than 600,000 arrived over the past four years.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) condemned the measure as a malevolent European tactic green-lighting people's death and defying the legal principles and the shared duty to saving lives.

APPEALS

On January 20, 2018, the family of Palestinian refugee from Syria Qusay Muselh born on 31 March 1991, appealed to the international humanitarian institutions and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to take urgent action in order to save their son who was hospitalised in Italy.

Qusay suffered amnesia after the boat he was on sank in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya on 2 August 2014, his father said. A few days later, the father reached out to a nurse at a hospital in Lampedusa who told him that his son was alive and had been transferred to a hospital in Sicily, south of Italy, where medics diagnosed him with a memory loss.

"We tried to contact the Red Cross in Syria, Lebanon, Norway, Sweden and Canada, but to no avail," Qusay's father said. "A friend of ours in Norway went to the Italian hospital to find out about Qusay's condition, however staff members prevented him from entering the hospital and refused to provide him any details about Qusay."

The father said the Palestinian Ambassador to Italy, Dr. May Keila, said there was nothing she could do because under Italian law such information could only be released to family members.

ACTIVITIES

Palestinian youths from Syria joined the 2nd Palestinian Youth Camp held in Italy from 26-28 November.

The camp, organised by the Palestinian Youth Assembly in Europe in partnership with the UK-based Olive Foundation for Palestinian Youth, aimed at boosting activism in favour of the Palestinian cause.

Workshops, cultural seminars, competitions and presentations on Palestinian embroidery were held at the event, which tackled the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. A set of project ideas were also put forward to encourage Palestinian youth to be active in both in the political and socio-economic fields.



CYPRUS

Palestinian refugees in Cyprus faced dire conditions. On more than one occasion they appealed to the Cypriot authorities to allow them to leave the country and seek asylum in other European country where they have families, particularly in Sweden and Germany.



GREECE

Greece's Ministry of Immigration Policy said 3,386 Palestinians applied for asylum in the country between 2013 and 2018.

A statement attributed to the Greek Ministry of Immigration Policy said as many as 59,684 migrants from war-torn Syria had sought asylum in the country over the past five years.

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees risked their lives onboard Greece-bound "death boats", fleeing war-torn countries.

Official statistics regarding the number of Palestinians from Syria in Greece are not available as thousands of refugees from other troubled regions, including Lebanon and Gaza, also arrived in the country. Others were registered as Syrian nationals.

Dozens of Palestinian refugees took shelter in ramshackle tents in unsafe forests, rock-strewn grasslands and over-crowded halls on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Chios, Leros and Kos.

Tents set up by Palestinian refugees on the Greek island of Samos were uprooted by strong winds. Displaced families, including children and women, were left without a roof over their heads as a result.

Tents were also flooded during winter as torrential downpours swamped refugee camps.

APPEALS

In early January, the family of Palestinian child Hamza Husam Abdul Kader Hamid reiterated calls for international human rights institutions to help them discover the whereabouts of their son. Hamza had gone missing three years earlier after a Greece-bound migrant boat from Turkey capsized in the Aegean Sea on 20 September 2015.

His family were forced out of Yarmouk Camp as a result of the deadly shelling rocking the area and sought shelter in Turkey, before they headed for Greece onboard an illegal migrant boat.

His father said at around 04:00am, the vessel collided with a cruise ship. The impact made him drop his son, who he was carrying in his arms. All 52 migrants onboard the boat fell into the sea.

Hamza's father fainted and was rescued by Greek coast guards. As soon as he regained consciousness, he was told by the coast guards and the Red Cross that his son had disappeared. Now in Germany, Hamza's father continues his search for his missing son.

- On April 12, 2018, 150 Palestinian and Syrian migrants living in overcrowded and under-equipped dormitories in Chios Island called on the Greek authorities to provide them with urgent humanitarian assistance and basic services, including shelter.

VIOLATIONS

- In October, 15 migrants, among them Palestinian refugees, were detained in Kastellórizo Island, located in the Rhodes Regional Division, in the South Aegean, east of Greece.

According to the Rescue and Follow-Up Cell, a migrant vessel set sail from Antalya, Turkey, on 24 September, headed for Kastellórizo Island, before it struck rocks. Those onboard eventually reached a deserted island.

Greek authorities received a communiqué to rescue the migrants. However, no information was revealed about their whereabouts and condition.

An activist said he had recently reached out to one of the migrants, who said they were taken to Kastellórizo, where they had their mobile phones seized.

- In November, a group of migrants was discovered by villagers in Turkey's northwestern Edirne province; they were found naked and exhausted. They said they had been beaten up and stripped of their clothes and belongings by Greek police.

The migrants, including Yemeni and Palestinian refugees, were found walking in open fields by locals of Kiremitçi Salih village in the Uzunköprü district on the eastern bank of the Maritsa River which forms the border between Turkey and Greece.

Pictures taken at the time show all migrants had visible signs of abuse on their backs and all over their bodies.

The incident was the latest of a number of such attacks which involved police violence against migrants fleeing war-torn areas. Similar incidents have also taken place on the Aegean, where coast guards have been accused of deflating migrant boats and re-routing them to Turkish territorial waters.

Based on the accounts of the illegally deported migrants, Greek police also confiscated migrants' possessions and torturing them before forcing back to Turkey, in violation of international law.



UKRAINE

In January, Palestinian refugee from Syria Fares Hashem Salaymeh was detained by Ukrainian authorities for overstaying a visa he obtained from the UAE some three months earlier. Fares was forcibly sent to Mauritania, before he was moved to Morocco. Moroccan authorities deported him to Turkey before he was again sent to Ukraine where he was detained once again. Twelve days later, Fares was transferred to an unknown location. His family received reports about Ukraine's intent to deport him to Sri Lanka.



PALESTINIANS FROM SYRIA IN TURKEY

Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria have been robbed of their right to free movement in Turkey due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary visa. As a result, the refugees have been denied access to the local labour market and barred from travelling within the country.

On 22 January, the Turkish city of Reyhanli came under heavy shelling as the battle against the Syrian Democratic Forces in the Efrin region intensified. Three properties housing Palestinians from Syria sustained heavy material damages, forcing the residents out.

MIGRATION FROM SYRIA TO TURKEY

- On January 27, 2018, Turkish authorities detained Fares Hashem Salama, who had been moved from Morocco and Mauritania, and deported him to Ukraine.



- On 15 May, Palestinian refugee Saadou Hasan Zaghmout, from Yarmouk, was shot dead by Turkish gendarmerie as he attempted to enter the country while fleeing Syria.
- In September, the family of Palestinian refugee Ammar Omar ALTobeh appealed to human rights institutions to urgently intervene and locate their son; he had don't missing over three years.

In letters emailed to AGPS, the family said Ammar headed for Turkey with his friends in an attempt to reach Europe. His family have been unable to contact him since he reached the Bab AlHawa crossing.

- In October, 15 Palestinian refugees were detained by Turkish authorities at a so-called Krit Gendarme-Central Detention Centre in Antakya. They were identified as: Jamil Khalil Emara, Ghufran Hamid, Ahmad Khaled Mohamed, Amal Hamid, eight-month-old Naya, Khaled Mahmoud AlKhatib, Ahmad Emad Mustafa and his wife and daughter, Abdul Rahman Mahmoud and Nour Khalaf and her three children.

The refugees said families held in detention centres faced tough conditions due to daily mistreatment and crackdowns.

Life in the so-called "Krit Gendarme" centre is similar to life in prison, where the refugees' movement is limited and mobile phones are seized. Access to public phones is granted only once a day, a refugee told AGPS.

Children and women are also separated from their fathers and husbands in the centre. Several of those who have been sick or caught diseases in have been left without treatment.

The refugees slammed the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Palestinian factions for turning their backs on them and for not intervening.

The detainees said the Palestine Embassy and Palestinian factions in Turkey pledged negotiate their release but nothing materialised.

They were allowed to leave on 20 September after being held for 30 days.

- On September 25, 2018, Palestinian refugee from Syria Ammar Ahmad Aboud, from Yarmouk Camp, was arrested by Turkish police. He was held in custody for 20 days on because he had overstayed his visa.

Contacting AGPS by phone, Ammar said Turkish police arrested him at Esenyurt Square, along with four Syrian migrants, despite the fact that he had a Turkish identity card. He was transferred to a detention centre in Bakırköy.

Activists appealed to the Turkish authorities, human rights groups and the Palestine Embassy in Istanbul to take serious steps to release Ammar. He was freed on 15 October.

- On October 5, 2018, Palestinian refugee Zakiya Mustafa Amer, a resident of Handarat Camp in Syria, was taken to the Central Prison in Antakya, south of Turkey, where she was held for a couple of weeks on charges of illegally crossing the Turkey-Syria border.

Reporting from Turkey, an AGPS correspondent said Turkish authorities prevented Palestinian NGOs from visiting Zakiya on account that only members of her family were permitted to do so.

- On July 30, 2018, four Palestinians were pronounced dead after they were fatally shot by Turkish gendarmerie on their way to Turkey.

The casualties were Bahaa Reyad Assaad, Mohamed Fayez Assaad, Ahmad Fawaz Assaad and Ahmad AlSheikh Assaad, all indentified as residents of Yarmouk Camp.

- Palestinian refugee Mahmoud Abu Khalifa, aged 32, disappeared from Kilis in Turkey in July. His family called on human rights institutions to take urgent action to locate him.

In a letter to AGPS, the family said their son, who has been diagnosed with endocrine deficiency and sickle cell anemia, headed for Turkey some eight days earlier. They failed to contact him since.

- The family of Palestinian refugee Nadi Khaled AlKhaled, from Jaramana Camp, launched appeals in May to receive their relative's body from a Turkish hospital to bury him. Nadi was born in 1977.
- The family of Palestinian refugee Sa'id AlSheikh Khaled, who fled war-torn Syria to Turkey, appealed to human rights institutions and the Palestinian Ambassador in Turkey to work on releasing him from Turkish jails and securing treatment for his four-year-old child Malak, whose health had taken a turn for the worse. The family said they had reached Turkey after completing a mountainous journey. Medics in Antakya failed to treat Malak. Sa'id decided to work at a Turkish restaurant to secure his child's

treatment, however, Turkish police detained him following a quarrel at the restaurant. Police detained him after discovering he did not have the necessary identity card.

Prior to his detention, Sa'id kept appealing to human rights institutions nationwide and overseas to work on providing his child with medical care after her condition deteriorated.

Malak, barely aged four, began showing symptoms of illness at the age of six months. Her family said she was unable to understand what was happening around her, did not eat properly and could hardly stand up.

"In order to feed her, we must grind the food and close her nose to help her chew. She doesn't understand what she has to do," Sa'id said. "My daughter has grown up in the embattled Yarmouk Camp. Every now and then doctors used to examine her. But nobody could identify what sort of disease she suffers from."

VICTIMS

- Nadi Khaled AlKhaled died of a heart attack in Yeni Hayat Hospital, in Osmaniye, Turkey, shortly after he was released from an opposition-run prison in Idlib, north of Syria. He had reportedly been subjected to torture for eight days before he was transferred to hospital.
- Palestinian refugee from Syria Mohamed Khalil Al-Kurdi was pronounced dead in Turkey after his health deteriorated owing to the blockade imposed on Yarmouk Camp in Syria and the lack of health care services. He had been sent to Turkey for treatment but died soon after arriving.

- Eleven-year-old Palestinian child from Syria Yousef Za'tout, displaced to northern Syria, died as a result of the blockade imposed on Palestinian shelters and civilians' lack of access to much-needed foodstuff and life-saving medicines.

His family said Yousef was transferred to Turkey after his health deteriorated in Syria. He fell into a coma and died shortly afterwards.

TURKEY: A LAUNCH-OFF CROSSING FOR IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Turkey has served as a launch pad for migrants fleeing Syria, among other war-stricken zones, onboard "death boats" bound for Europe.

- On June 3, 2018, nine irregular migrants, including a woman and six children, died off Turkey's southern coast of Antalya. Five migrants were rescued. Another went missing.
- In August, the Turkish coast guard said it had rescued 26 Palestinian and Syrian migrants off the shore of Bodrum, in Mugla province, southwest of Turkey. They were heading to Greece.

EVENTS

- Palestinian women and former detainees from Syria took part in AlDhameer Convoy which set off in March from Istanbul to raise awareness of the thousands of female detainees in Syrian government jails.
- In May, Palestinian refugees from Syria took part in AlAwda Festival organised by FIDDER, the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, and

AlTadhamun campaign in Gaziantep, south of Turkey, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba and in solidarity with the Great March of Return and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

- In August, former detainee Karim AlJalili, from AlNeirab Camp in Syria, took part in a commemoration staged by activists in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep to pay tribute to detainees killed in Syrian government jails. Karim delivered a speech about his experience in Syrian government detention centres.
- In August, some 600 Palestinian and Syrian refugee children from war-torn Syria joined the Quds summer camp held in Antakya and Reyhanli, south of Turkey. Art and sports workshops, along with activities aiming to commemorate Palestinian heritage, were staged at the 10-day event, which came as part of endeavours launched by the Islamic Relief Association for Orphans and Poor, in partnership with Khayra Ummah Charity, to improve the calamitous situation endured by refugee children and families from Syria.
- Dozens of Palestinian families from Syria took part in a gathering held by the Conference of Palestinians in Turkey on 21 August, the first day of Eid AlAdhha, in Istanbul.

The event aimed to strengthen community bonds between Palestinian families taking refuge in Turkey and to alleviate the traumatic effects of the war and subsequent displacement.

RELIEF SERVICES

The absence of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA, the UNHCR, and other international organisations made the situation of Palestinians from Syria in Turkey alarming.

Families received sporadic aid from a handful of Turkish and Syrian charities, including the Turkish Association for Solidarity with Palestine (FIDDER).



INDIA

On August 24, 2018, India deported the four-member Palestinian family of Fahd Odeh to Jordan. A source close to the family said Fahd, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, was deported from India with his wife and three children after he overstayed his visa.

Fahd left Syria before 2010 to pursue his studies. He stayed in India to flee the war in Syria but could not renew his visa. He got married after moving to India.

Fahd obtained a Palestinian passport from the Palestine Embassy after his Syrian travel documents expired. He was later deported to Jordan, where he was detained at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. His wife, a holder of a foreign passport, refused to stay in Jordan after the authorities there allowed her to enter the country. The family was later granted asylum in Malaysia.

Palestinian refugee from Syria Tareq Derbas, aged 31, urged international organisations, the Palestine Embassy and humanitarian NGOs in India to help him secure treatment fees and broker his safe return from Syria to India. Tareq, from Yarmouk Camp, was injured after a mortar struck his home. He suffered paralysis in his lower-limbs.



THAILAND

- In November, Palestinian refugee from Syria Iyad Suleiman called on the international human rights institutions and NGOs to take urgent action to release him from a Thai jail where he had been detained for nearly a year for overstaying his visa.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, Iyad said he had entered Thailand in 2013 in an attempt to meet with UN officials at the UNHCR and apply for asylum in a European country.

Iyad said he went underground after his tourism visa expired, pending his UNHCR-brokered transfer to a European destination. He was, however, arrested on 9 November 2017 for overstaying his visa and sent to a Thai prison.

Iyad said that after he had reached out to the UNHCR he was told that it

could do nothing to help him as Thai authorities treat Palestinians as law-breakers not asylum-seekers fleeing war.

- In late October, voice recordings released by activists provided tangible evidence of the tragic conditions endured by Palestinian and Syrian refugees stranded in Thailand and held at I.D.C detention centre in Bangkok for overstaying their visas. The recording revealed that children, women and elderly refugees are crammed in over-crowded detention centres where they are made to sit and sleep in a squatting position.
- A refugee said that one of the detainees has been held in I.D.C. for over three years and that a number of children had grown up in the centres with no identity documents. Others had their travel documents invalidated due to the length of their detention.
- Refugees highlighted the unbearably high temperatures in the detention centre, the medical neglect they suffered and the poor quality and insufficient food provided to them. They appealed to international human rights groups, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Thai authorities to take urgent steps to attain their release and improve the conditions of their detention.
- "We've fallen prey to skin diseases as we've not seen the sun and been deprived of ventilation for quite a long while," a Palestinian refugee from Syria held in the centre said in a letter emailed to AGPS.
- In October, Palestinian activists appealed to the Palestinian Authority, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the media to rally around Palestinians from Syria in Thailand, where they face the risk of detention and

refoulement. According to the activists, over 600 Palestinian refugees in Thailand are at risk of being detained or forcibly deported after Thai authorities tightened their grip on refugees who overstay their visas.

The situation was exacerbated by the UNHCR's failure to secure another country which would take in these refugees who had fled Syria. The activists called on the UNHCR to take urgent steps to help Palestinians of Syria in Thailand because they fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operation. They further appealed to the Thai authorities to treat Palestinian refugees in accordance with international laws and standards.

- In early November, Palestinian activists identified 39 Palestinian refugees held in Thai detention centres for overstaying their visas, denying reports that the number of detainees is insignificant.

A statement attributed to Palestinian refugees in Thailand said the number of detainees is likely to increase.

The list of detainees includes: Yousef Arab, Ahmad Dirbas, Mahmoud Dirbas, Mohamed AlNatour, Nidal Ibrahim, Yasar Tamim, Hanan Amouri, Rim Hadrous, Itihad Dakakini, Omar Hashem, Mohamed AlHasan, Ahmad Al-Hasan, Fadi Abu Mahmoud, Firas Jebali, Khaled Omar, Ahmad Saad, Naser Omar, Ali Kweidar, Rami AlAsaad, Mohamed Ali Sakr, Ahmad AlMesri, Iyad Suleiman, Mohamed Azimeh, Ayham Younes, Ayham, Hamad Issa, Layth Tamim, Lin Tamim, Rana Dandari, Nadia Kadeem, Ahmad Mohamed Jawad, Ali Ahmad, Amar Ahmad, Ahmad AlHasan, Rahman AlAmeidi, Sami Hasan Abu Watfa, Ahmad Bseiso, Wesam AlKhatib, and Mohamed Younes Abu Harb. The latter had been detained for the third consecutive year.

- In October, Palestinian activists launched an e-campaign on social media networks to speak up for Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Thai prisons. They called on the Palestinians and Syrians to increase pressure on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Thai government and urge them to fulfil their moral and legal responsibilities in this regard, in accordance with the Refugee Convention and international humanitarian law.

They urged the media to raise awareness of the plight of refugees trapped at I.D.C.

- The Committee of Palestinian Refugees in Thailand was formed in October by the stranded refugees to keep on top of their legal and humanitarian situation in Thailand. In a press statement, the refugees said the committee was taking civic action in response to the crackdowns, arbitrary abductions, and deportation threats which the Palestinians in Thailand have been subjected to under the guise of overstaying their visas.
- In mid-November, a Palestinian refugee was released from a Thai detention centre where she had been detained with her children for overstaying her visa. She had been incarcerated for 20 days and was only released after paying bail.

She said "no Palestinian Authority representative has reached out to us following our release."

She added that a number of children, men and women were being held in custody and did not have sufficient funds to cover bail costs.

UNHC delegates visited the refugees three days after they were detained

in order to keep check the conditions of their detention, she explained. Prison authorities later took away the detainees' personal belongings and beds, leaving them with thin mattresses randomly tossed on the floor in overcrowded cells. "No other party contacted us from that moment on," she added. Palestinian activists said bail payments had been paid to release all women and girls held in custody, however, a number of female detainees were suddenly transferred to other detention centres.

Palestinian activists condemned PA officials' apathy regarding the situation of Palestinian refugees in Thailand and called for urgent action to work out the refugees' legal status.

- In late November, dozens of Arab refugees, mostly Palestinians stranded in Thailand, held a vigil outside the office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangkok, slamming the agency's inaction with regards the plight of refugees.

They called on the UN to recognise their rights as refugees and grant them a safe passage to Australia or Canada pending their return to their homeland - Palestine. Children held banners calling for urgent intervention.

- In early December, Thai authorities launched an arrest campaign targeting Palestinian and Arab refugees stranded in Bangkok. Several Palestinian, Syrian and Iraqi migrants were detained for overstaying their visas. The refugees slammed the UNHCR for its apathy vis-à-vis the daily crackdowns perpetrated against them in Thailand.
- On December 3, 2018, 23 refugees, including 20 Palestinians, were ar-

rested by Thai police following a raid on their residences over allegations that their visas had expired. Activists said the Thai police chief had taken to Facebook to threaten Palestinian refugees with detention. Calling them a “mafia”.

Human rights activist Fatma Jabeur slammed the UNHCR for dragging its feet over the crackdowns perpetrated against the refugees.

Jabeur said UNHCR staff demanded Thai police arrest all migrants who protested outside its office and handed their pictures and addresses to authorities alleging they had taken part in acts of sabotage.



Hundreds of Palestinian refugees from Syria who have reached Brazil as they rummaged around for a safe shelter have been struggling for survival.

The refugees have reportedly been denied access to the local labor market and the right to relief assistance, travel documents, and education. In the best of cases, a two-year visa is handed over to the refugees.

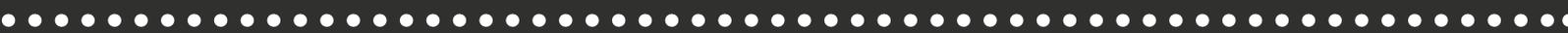
No official statistics have been released by the Palestinian Embassy in Brazil and the General Union of Palestinian institutions, among other concerned bodies, as regards the number of Palestinian refugees in Brazil.

According to data by the National Committee for Refugees in Brazil (CONARE), 1,794 refugees from Syria, including Palestinians, reached Brazil until the end of 2014.



CHAPTER 3

Casualties and Detainees



SECTION 3.1

- Victim and Detainees
- Victims of Torture
- Released Refugees



VICTIMS AND DETAINEES

AGPS kept a record of the death of 3,911 Palestinians from Syria from March 2011 until 31 December 2018 due to war-related incidents, including 89 refugees who died trying to flee Syria.

VICTIMS

In 2018, 276 Palestinian refugees from Syria were pronounced dead, up from 205 in 2017.

The list includes 68 gunmen (141 in 2017) and 168 civilians (64 in 2017).

VICTIMS BY STATUS

Status	Number	Percentage
Military	108	39.13%
Civilians	168	60.87%
Total Death Toll	276	100%

Comparison Between 2016/2017/2018

Status	2016	2017	2018
Civilians	171	64	168
Military	140	141	68
Total Death Toll	311	205	276

VICTIMS BY GENDER, AGE

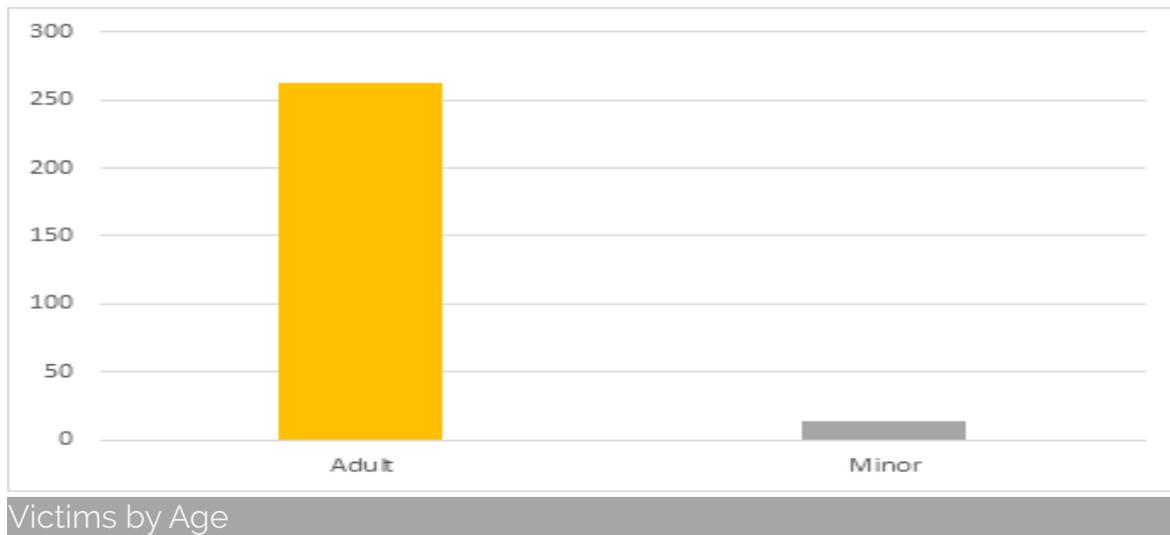
Women made up nearly 5.43% of those who died. Fifteen female refugees and 261 males were pronounced dead in 2018. Fourteen children and 262 adults appear on the list.

Victims by Gender

Gender	Number	Percentage
Men	261	94.57%
Women	15	5.43%
Total Death Toll	276	100%

Victims by Age

Age	Number	Percentage
Adult	262	94.93%
Minor	14	5.07%
Total Death Toll	276	100%



VICTIMS BY DATE OF DEATH

The largest number of victims for 2018 was recorded in July, with 50 casualties, followed by 47 in April and 32 in May.

Death Date	Number	Percentage
January	13	4.71%
February	21	7.61%
March	23	8.33%
April	47	17.03%
May	32	11.59%
June	28	10.14%
July	50	18.12%
August	22	7.97%
September	18	6.52%
October	5	1.81%
November	9	3.26%
December	8	2.90%
Total	276	100%
Total	276	100%

VICTIMS BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

273 refugees were pronounced dead in Syria, two in Lebanon, and another in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip.

122 refugees also died in Rif Dimashq, 36 in southern Syria and 101 in various locations across Syria.

Victims by City

Place of Death (in Syria)	Death Toll
Unknown	101
Damascus	82
Rif Dimashq	40
ALSuweida	25
Daraa	11
Aleppo	4
Idlib	3
Deir ALZor	2
Latakia	3
Hums	1
Hama	1
Total	273

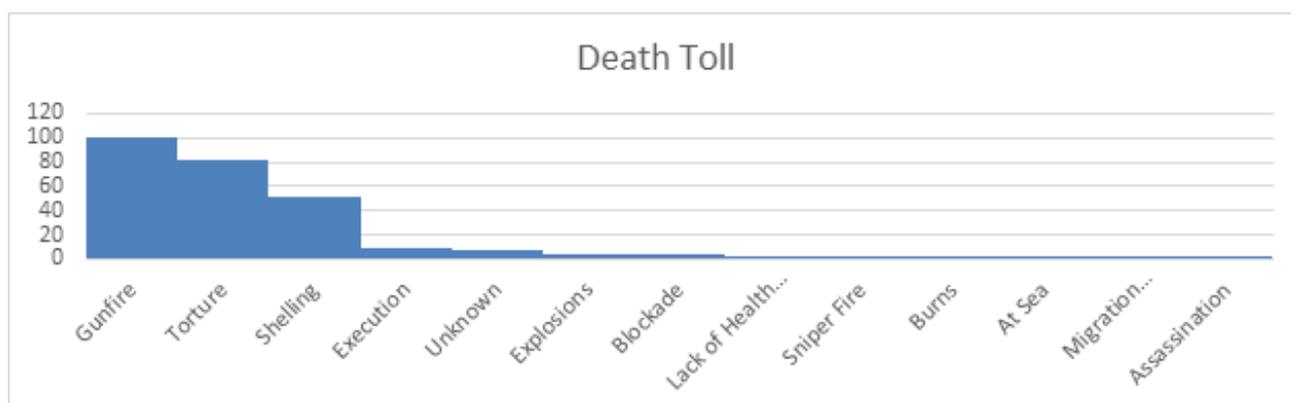
VICTIMS BY REFUGEE CAMP

Refugee Camp	Death Toll
Damascus – Yarmouk Camp	63
Rif Dimashq – Jaramana town + Jaramana Camp	4
Daraa Camp	3
Deir Ballout Camp	2
Damascus – AlSayeda Zeinab town + Refugee Camp	1
Total	73

VICTIMS BY CAUSE OF DEATH

109 Palestinian refugees were killed by gunfire while 82 others were tortured to death in Syrian prisons. Shelling killed 51 refugees.

Cause of Death	Death Toll	Percentage
Gunfire	100	93.49%
Torture	82	29.71%
Shelling	51	18.48%
Execution	9	3.26%
Unknown	8	2.90%
Blasts	4	1.45%
Blockade	4	1.45%
Lack of health care	3	1.09%
Sniper bullets	2	0.72%
Burns	1	0.36%
At sea	1	0.36%
Migration Route	1	0.36%
Assassination	1	0.36%
Total	276	100.00%



DETAINEES

Until the end of 2018, AGPS documented the incarceration of 1,724 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run jails. 304 others have gone missing.

Sixteen Palestinians were arrested in 2018, including a woman. This is a reduction from 28 detainees in 2017, including seven women.

DETAINEES BY CITY, CAMP

Place of Residence	Death Toll	Percentage
Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	6	37,50%
Rif Dimashq - Khan Eshieh Camp	5	31,25%
Unknown	3	18,75%
Hums - AlAyedeen Camp	1	6,25%
Aleppo - AlNeirab Camp	1	6,25%
Total	16	100,00%

LIST OF DETAINEES

#	Name	Date of Arrest	Place of Arrest	Residence Address	Extra Data
1	Majd Ali Ajaj	01.01.2018	Unknown	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Born in 1996 and raised in Khan Eshieh Camp, Majd was arrested at a government checkpoint in Damascus and taken to an unknown location.
2	Ahmed Mahmoud Mousa	11.01.2018	Eastern Ghouta	Unknown	Affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Army. Opposition sources said he was arrested by Jaysh Allslam forces in a military operation targeting government sites in ALZureikiya and Herzama, in Eastern Ghouta
3	Ahmed Ziad AlKhatib	11.01.2018	Eastern Ghouta	Unknown	Affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Army. Opposition sources said he was arrested by Jaysh Allslam forces in a military operation targeting government sites in ALZureikiya and Herzama, in Eastern Ghouta
4	Mohamed Adnan Kbei'a	11.01.2018	Eastern Ghouta	Unknown	Affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Army. Opposition sources said he was arrested by Jaysh Allslam forces in a military operation targeting government sites in ALZureikiya and Herzama, in Eastern Ghouta
5	Ahmed Mahmoud Eid	26.01.2018	Unknown	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Arrested by Syrian government forces. His location and condition remain unknown
6	Amer Taha	13.02.2018	Khan Eshieh Camp	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Arrested by Syrian government forces. His location and condition remain unknown
7	Mohamed Arsan	13.02.2018	Khan Eshieh Camp	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Arrested by Syrian government forces. His location and condition remain unknown
8	Khalil Dhaher	13.02.2018	Khan Eshieh Camp	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Arrested by Syrian government forces. His location and condition remain unknown

#	Name	Date of Arrest	Place of Arrest	Residence Address	Extra Data
9	Mohamed Amer Azam Mohamed Hasan Darwish	01.04.2018	ALAyedeen Camp - Hums	ALAyedeen Camp - Hums	Mohamed was an activist and volunteer at Bisan Clinic in ALAyedeen Camp in Homs. He is a native of ALShajara village in occupied Palestine
10	Wasim Ghneim	22.04.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Syrian government forces claimed responsibility for Wasim's abduction. He was affiliated with ISIS and was captured at the Yalda-ALZein neighbourhoods crossroads
11	Mahmoud Omar	30.04.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Government forces detained him as he was on way out of Yarmouk through the Uruba checkpoint, heading for Yalda
12	Asma Azam	17.08.2018	ALNeirab Camp	Aleppo - AL-Neirab Camp	Detained by Syrian government forces on her way back from Lebanon
13	Samer ALSafadi	13.11.2018	Lebanese-Syrian borders	Damascus	Arrested by Syrian government forces on his way back from Lebanon
14	Khaled Mustafa Joudeh	23.12.2018	Yalda	Damascus	The three brothers were kidnapped by Syrian government forces from their shelter in Yalda town, south of Damascus. Their two brothers, Muhyi ALDeen and Marwan Mustafa Joudeh, were tortured to death in Syrian state prisons
15	Yehya Mystafa Joudeh	23.12.2018	Yalda	Damascus	
16	Osama Mustafa Joudeh	23.12.2018	Yalda	Damascus	

VICTIMS OF FATAL TORTURE

In 2018, 82 Palestinian refugees were tortured to death in Syrian government prisons, according to data by the General Authority for Palestinian Refugees, bringing the number of victims of torture and enforced disappearance until the end of 2018 to 564.

LIST OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN 2018

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
1	Abdullah Fayez Diab	16.01.2018	Unknown	Civilian	Tortured in Syrian government prisons. He is the son of lawyer Fayez Diab who faced a similar fate
2	Amar AlAshwah	04.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	Torture in Syrian government prisons
3	Ahmed Mohamed Barnawi	23.06.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Tortured to death in Syrian government jails where he had been detained for nearly two and a half years
4	Mohamed Kasem	28.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	Tortured to death in Syrian government jails
5	Ibrahim AlDerbi	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	The Syrian government informed the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees that they had died of torture in jail
6	Yousef AlDerbi	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
7	Muhanad Khaled AlRouba	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
8	Ahmed Khaled AlRouba	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
9	Ahmed Yaseer Kadoura	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
10	Sa'id Reda Tarouba	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
11	Salem Shaker Fanous	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
12	Moufek Mubasher	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
13	Zaher Moufek Mubasher	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
14	Abdul Karim Naser	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
15	Ahmed Mohamed AlKhatib	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
16	Mohamed Kasem Sweid	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
17	Wael Abu Rashed	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
18	Murhaf AlSaadi AlTirawi	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
19	Abdul Rahman Murad	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
20	Ghayath Murad	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
21	Ayham Diab	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
22	Mahmoud Miawi	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
23	Alaa Abdul Rahman Abdullah	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
24	Ahmed Darwish Makboul	29.06.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	
25	Fadi Taha	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Aged 26, Fadi was tortured to deaths in Syrian government jails where he had been held up for over three years
26	Musaab Sherifa	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	The 27-year-old was died as a result of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained for over three years

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
27	Muhammad Ali Namer Ayoub	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	He died of torture three years after being detained by Syrian government forces
28	Mohammed Saleh AlGhalawi	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	He was died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been locked up for over three years
29	Mohammed Ghadban	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained up for over three years
30	Awad Abu Zaqour	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Held for over three years in Syrian government jails, Awad died of torture
31	Bilal AlShaabi	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained up for over three years
32	Mohamed ALSgheir	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained up for over three years
33	Bilal ALSgheir	01.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained up for over three years
34	Yehya Reyad Gharib	02.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Aged 30, he was pronounced dead after being incarcerated in Syrian government prisons for four years
35	Mohamed Mahmoud Ghazal	02.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Tortured to death in Syrian government jails
36	Mohamed Ali Ayoub	02.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Tortured to death in Syrian government jails
37	Ali Husam Shablaq	02.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	The 23-year-old was kidnapped on 5 July 2015. He was tortured to death in government prisons
38	Ahmed Abdul Haleem AlSha'bi	02.07.2018	Homs refugee camp	Civilian	Aged 30, Ahmed was pronounced dead after being detained for four years in Syrian government prisons
39	Mohamed Al Mesri	08.07.2018	Rif Dimashq – AlHusainiya Camp	Civilian	Mohamed was kidnapped by Fatah AlIntifada and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command from Jaramana Camp on June 2018. He was handed over to the Syrian intelligence's Palestine Branch on the Jaramana access road shortly afterwards. He died of torture in Syrian state prisons

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
40	Amer Khaled Shehabi	09.07.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been detained for over three years. His death certificate was given to his family
41	Mootaz Taher ALGhozi	10.07.2018	Damascus - Rukn ALDeen	Civilian	Kidnapped from his home in Rukn Adeen by government forces in 2014, Mootaz died of torture in detention
42	Abdul Salam Khaled Abdul Al	11.07.2018	Unknown	Civilian	Tortured to death in Syrian government jails, Abdul Salam had been kidnapped by government forces some three years earlier and held in custody. Activists said Abdul Salam fought alongside Palestinian revolutionaries in Tyre during the Palestinian insurgency that flared up in southern Lebanon. Aged 18 at the time, Abdul Salam had been held captive in ALAnsar military camp by Israeli occupation forces
43	Hamid Ahmed Sweid	11.07.2018	Damascus - Rukn ALDeen	Civilian	Hamid was held in Syrian government jails for five years before dying of torture. His identity documents and death certificate were handed over to his family
44	Yazen Akrem Amayri	12.07.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Yazen died of torture in Syrian government penitentiaries
45	Mootasem Ahmed Yousef	12.07.2018	Rif Dimashq - Khan Eshieh Camp	Civilian	Mootasem died as a result of torture in Syrian government jails
46	Samer Salim Jarbou'	13.07.2018	Unknown	Civilian	He was tortured to death in Syrian government jails, where he had been locked up for nearly five years. His death certificate was given to his family
47	Niraz Sa'id	16.07.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	The Palestinian photographer died after being tortured in Syrian government jails where he had been detained for three years. Niraz was kidnapped on 2 October 2015 by Syrian government forces and dragged to a detention centre in Damascus

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
48	Ziyad Adel Youssef Za'za'	17.07.2018	Damascus- Al-Hajar AlAswad	Civilian	Palestinian brothers Ismail and Ziyad died of torture in Syrian government lock-ups.
49	Ismail Adel Youssef Za'za'	17.07.2018	Damascus- Al-Hajar AlAswad	Civilian	According to one of the victims' relatives, Ziyad was kidnapped in 2013 and Ismail in 2014. Syrian government forces returned their clothes and identity documents to their families
50	Yaser Yousef AlKarkati	Actual: 10.2015 Registered: 18.07.2018	Daraa AlBalad	Civilian	Yaser died of torture in Syrian government jails where he had been held since the start of the Syrian revolution. His family said they received news of his death from the Civil Status Department, where they learned that he had died in October 2015
51	Anas Abbas Awad	23.07.2018	Rif Dimashq - Shabaa	Civilian	Anas, born in 1990, died as a result of torture in Syrian government prisons. He had been kidnapped by government forces in 2011 at the Naseem checkpoint in Jaramana, Rif Dimashq
52	Mohamed Fayad Mustafa	23.07.2018	Damascus – Kafr Sousa	Civilian	Palestinian brothers Mohamed, 39, and Nabil, 38, died of torture in Syrian government prisons.
53	Nabil Fayad Mustafa	23.07.2018	Damascus – Kafr Sousa	Civilian	They had been kidnapped in 2013 by the pro-government Brigade 215
54	Alaa AlDeen Jamal Mahmoud	27.07.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Palestinian refugee Alaa, born in 1978, died as a result of torture in Syrian government prisons where he had been held for seven years. A former civil servant, he was kidnapped by government forces from Aleppo and transferred to a detention centre in Damascus
55	Essam Mustafa Shahada	29.07.2018	Daraa Refugee Camp	Civilian	Essam died of torture in Syrian government prisons where he had been held for seven years.

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
56	Sayf AlDeen Alyan Ali	08.08.2018	Rif Dimashq	Civilian	Four members of the Palestinian Alyan Ali family were tortured to death in Syrian jails.
57	Mohamed Kheir Alyan Ali	08.08.2018	Rif Dimashq	Civilian	Born in 1970, Sayf AlDeen was kidnapped on 17 April 2013; Mohamed Kheir was born in 1972 and kidnapped on 29 January 2014; Ezzedine Mohamed was born in 1995 and kidnapped on 29 January 2014; and Ali was born in 1987 and arrested on 29 January 2014.
58	Ezzedine Mohamed Khayr Ali	08.08.2018	Rif Dimashq	Civilian	Mohamed, Ali, and Ezzedine were kidnapped at the Jaramana checkpoint. Sayf was kidnapped at the Husainiya checkpoint in Rif Dimashq.
59	Ali Alian Ali	08.08.2018	Rif Dimashq	Civilian	The family received news of their deaths when they attended the Registrar's office
60	Khaled Ahmed Shreiki	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Khaled died as a result of torture inflicted on him in Syrian jails. He was arrested on 31 March 2012. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
61	Khaled AlNamer	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Khaled AlNamer, from AlRaml Camp in Latakia, was arrested on 23 July 2012. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
62	Ahmed Jabara	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Ahmed was arrested on 4 August 2013. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
63	Ahmed Mohamed AlShaar	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Ahmed was arrested on 31 August 2012. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
64	Ali ALSos	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Ali was arrested on 5 January 2012. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
65	Fadi Razouq	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Fadi was arrested on 22 December 2013. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
66	Mohamed Hasan Mustafa	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Arrested on 1 August 2011, Mohamed's name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
67	Mohamed Hasan Zamharir	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Detained on 22 December 2011, his name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
68	Mohamed Samir Jumu'a	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Held on 28 April 2013, Mohamed's name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
69	Mohamed Allam Karkish	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Arrested on 4 June 2012, his name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
70	Mustfa Mohamed	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Mustfa was detained on 15 December 2011. His name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
71	Khamis Omar Hariri	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Arrested on 21 December 2011, his name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
72	Mohamed Nizar	09.08.2018	Latakia – Al-Raml Camp	Civilian	Mohamed was arrested on 2 February 2014 and his name appears on a leaked list of 8,000 victims of torture
73	Bilal Walid Fa'ouri	17.08.2018	Daraa refugee camp	Civilian	Bilal was pronounced dead as a result of torture in Syrian government jails
74	Mohamed Deib Mahmoud Abu AlRuz	14.09.2018	Rif Dimashq – Khan Eshieh Camp	Civilian	Mohamed, nicknamed Abu Ram, died of torture in Syrian government jails. He was the conductor of the Bisan musical band and a member of the Fidaa Association. Abu Ram had been arrested in 2013 at the Batikha checkpoint on his way out of Yarmouk Camp. He was a resident of AlHajar AlAswad area

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
75	Udai Sabri AlHelou	25.09.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Born in 1997, Udai died of torture in Syrian government jails. He was kidnapped at the government-run AlBatikha checkpoint in 2014 on his way out of Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus
76	Mohamed Anis Badwan	17.11.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Mohamed, called Abu Omar, died of torture in Syria's state-run Sednaya Military Prison in Rif Dimashq, after he had been held in jail for over four years. The 56-year-old father of three boys and one girl was kidnapped by Syrian government forces on his way out of the besieged Yarmouk Camp in 2014 to collect UNRWA aid
77	Ahmad Abdullah Balbisi	22.11.2018	Hama refugee camp	Civilian	Ahmad died in Latakia central prison where he had been held for over eight years on account of his involvement in peaceful protests against the Syrian government. Sources close to the victim said he was killed by pro-government prison wardens owing to his support for the uprising
78	Bilal Hasan Dirbas	02.12.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Bilal Hasan Dirbas, who sheltered in AlMaghareba neighbourhood in Yarmouk Camp, died of torture in Syrian government prisons
79	Wafi Emara	15.12.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	The two brothers were tortured to death in state-run jails, where they had been held for four years. They were both sheltered in Yarmouk Camp. Their brother, Dhiaa, an activist, was gunned down by snipers some three years earlier south of Damascus
80	Mahmoud Emara	15.12.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	

#	Victim	Death Date	Residence Address	Status	Extra Data
81	Muhyi AlDeen Mustafa Joudeh	27.12.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	Palestinian brothers Muhyi AlDeen, born in 1986, and Marwan, born in 1977, were tortured to death in Syrian state prisons. Marwan was arrested on 1 January 2013, while Muhyi AlDeen was detained on 1 May 2014 at the Yalda-Ali AlWahsh checkpoint
82	Marwan Mustafa Joudeh	27.12.2018	Damascus - Yarmouk Camp	Civilian	

RELEASED REFUGEES

Twenty-six Palestinian refugees were released from Syrian jails in 2018. In April, the Palestine Liberation Army announced the release of its members Ziad AlKhatib, Mufid Majed Kadoura, Sabri Shaaban, Mahmoud Adnan Kabilah, Abdul Latif Mahmoud Sai'id and Mohamed Mahmoud Mousa, as part of an agreement with the Syrian government in Duma. The deal stipulated that all captives be released in exchange for the safe transfer of Jaysh Allslam gunmen and their families to Jarablus, in Aleppo's northern outskirts

#	Prisoner	Release Date	Place of Arrest	Residence Address	Further Details
1	Adnan AlSayed	27.01.2018	Unknown	Unknown	Adnan, deputy chief of Liwaa AlQuds Brigade which is affiliated with Syrian government forces, was released from a Syrian state detention centre where he has been held for 30 days
2	Mohamed Hani Rabie AlSatari	31.01.2018	AlMuzeireeb	AlMuzeireeb	Aged 16 and sheltered in AlMuzeireeb, in the south of Syria, Mohamed was arrested as he passed through Khirbet Ghazalah checkpoint on 19 November 2017
3	Maher Darwish	04.02.2018	Homs Camp	Homs Camp	Released after being held captive for three years
4	Karim Awad Mufteh	11.02.2018	AlMuzeireeb	AlMuzeireeb	Anonymous gunmen released him ten days after he was abducted
5	Yaser Yousef Gharib	12.02.2018	Homs Camp	Homs	He was released after being held for five years in government jails
6	Fahd AlNameiri	08.03.2018	AlMuzeireeb	AlMuzeireeb	Anonymous gunmen released him after they held him captive for three weeks
7	Asmaa Azzam	19.03.2018	Syrian-Lebanese Borders	AlNeirab Camp	She was arrested by government forces on 18 February on her way back from Lebanon
8	Ahmad Daoud	25.03.2018	Zamalka	Unknown	The opposition squad of Faylak AlRahman in Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq, released Ahmad as part of prisoner swap deal with the Syrian government stipulating the release of 35 captives

#	Prisoner	Release Date	Place of Arrest	Residence Address	Further Details
9	Ahmad Ziad AlKhatib	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	The Palestine Liberation Army announced their release as part of an agreement with the Syrian government in Duma. The deal stipulated that all captives be released in exchange for the safe transfer of Jaysh Allslam gunmen and their families to Jarablus, in Aleppo's northern outskirts
10	Mufeed Majed Qadoura	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	
11	Ahmad Sabri Shaaban	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	
12	Mahmoud Adnan Kabila	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	
13	Abdulatif Mahmoud Sa'id	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	
14	Mohamed Mahmoud Mousa	10.04.2018	Eastern Gh-outa	Unknown	
15	Samir Hourani	10.04.2018	AlNeirab Camp	AlNeirab Camp	Samir was released after three months in jail over allegations of smuggling wanted youth from AlNeirab Camp. He had served as the spokesman in the area for five years
16	Ayman Daouah	18.04.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Yarmouk Camp	He was released by ISIS following five days of detention in Yarmouk Camp
17	Bahaa Abu Kharroub	26.04.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Yarmouk Camp	Bahaa was released by ISIS following four months of detention. He was kidnapped from Yarmouk Camp following allegations he had ties with Tahrir AlSham
18	Fatema Abu Diyeh	30.04.2018	Homs Camp	Homs Camp	She was released following seven months and a half in a government jails
19	Shadi Bakra	15.05.2018	Homs Camp	Homs Camp	He was released following six years in Syrian government prisons
20	Marline Amjad Zreiki	01.06.2018	Daraa Camp	Daraa Camp	She was released after three months in custody
21	Yasmine Al-Lheibi	13.06.2018	AlMuzeireeb	AlMuzeireeb	She was released following four years in Syrian government jails
22	Tareq Mseibas	13.06.2018	Hama Camp	AlNeirab Camp	He was released after more than a year in prison
23	Fawzi Hamid	12.07.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Yarmouk Camp	He was kidnapped on 21 May 2018 after government forces recaptured Yarmouk Camp. Hamid and a group of elderly persons who refused to leave Yarmouk and called for making the camp a neutral zone were arrested and dragged to an unknown location

#	Prisoner	Release Date	Place of Arrest	Residence Address	Further Details
24	Issa Yehya Abu Zeid	19.07.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Yarmouk Camp	He was released as part of the first batch of the Kafria-Foua'a deal
25	Rami Kasem	20.07.2018	Yarmouk Camp	Yarmouk Camp	He was released as part of the first batch of the Kafria-Foua'a deal
26	Ghaleb Sai'd Suleiman	20.08.2018	Khan Eshieh Camp	Khan Eshieh Camp	He was released after being held in custody for 30 days



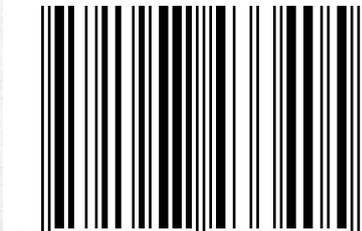
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