



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugee Women in Syria Seek Livelihoods to Feed Starved Families"

- Palestinian Refugee Killed by Bullet Shots in Syria
- House Ravaged by Fire in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Committee Urges Palestinians from Syria to Rally in Gaza
- Palestinian Brothers Ahamd and Mohamed Awad Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime

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Victims

Palestinian refugee Rafat Amin AlSbeihi was killed by bullet fire heavily shot during a wedding party celebrated in AlMuzeireeb town, in the Syrian province of Deraa.

The victim is the father of four children.

Palestinians taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb continue to express deep concern over the security situation as reports of assassination and fatal gunshooting have increasingly emerged in the area.

In 2020 alone, five Palestinian refugees were assassinated in AlMuzeireeb town.

AGPS has documented the death of 31 of Palestinian refugees as a result of war-related incidents in AlMuzeireeb town, home to 1,700 Palestinian families displaced from Daraa Camp.

Latest Developments

Scores Palestinian refugee women sheltered in Syria have served as their families' sole breadwinners.

Entering its 11th year, the warfare has forced women to break down gender locks and force their way into the market place to ensure their children can receive food and stay safe.

Several women who lost their husbands in the conflict or whose sons have been forcibly disappeared in the country have found no



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other way than to work up a sweat in order to survive in the war-torn country.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of 110 Palestinian women and girls in Syria's government prisons.

AGPS also documented the death of over 30 Palestinian women and girls under torture in Syria's state-run penal complexes.

AGPS believes the numbers to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.



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In another development, fires broke out at a house in Deraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, resulting in heavy material damage.

Firefighters rushed to the scene and put out the fires, with the help of the residents.

The incident was attributed to a short circuit.

All the way through Syria's ten-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities. A chronic water blackout has made the situation worse.

In the meantime, the Follow-Up Committee of Palestinians of Syria in Gaza called on Palestinian returnees from Syria, Libya, and Yemen to join a vigil slated to be held on Sunday, March 07, outside of the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the besieged enclave.

The protest move aims to urge PLO and other concerned parties to work on protecting the refugees, securing their basic human rights, and ensuring their access to their financial dues as determined by the Council of Ministers on June 04, 2015.

Sometime earlier, Director of UNRWA operations in Gaza Mathias Schemale promised to increase efforts in order to tone down the calamitous humanitarian condition endured by Palestinian refugees who returned from Syria to the blockaded Gaza Strip.



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Schemale promised to reach out to donor parties in order to help construct housing units for Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in the besieged enclave and to secure rental allowances to displaced families.

Some 150 Palestinian refugee families from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees say they have been deprived of humanitarian assistance by UNRWA and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 13-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.



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Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In another development, Palestinian brothers Mohamed and Ahmad Awad have been secretly locked up in Syrian government prisons for the seventh year running.

Mohamed, born in 1986, was arrested in Hama city on December 26, 2013. Ahmad, born in 1985, was arrested on June 20, 2014 near the Lebanese borders.

1,797 Palestinian refugees have been secretly held in Syria's state-run penal complexes.