

Arrests in Yarmouk Camp after Being Taken Over by Regime Forces

More than 20 people arrested and taken to an unknown destination by Syrian regular forces on May 23, 2018



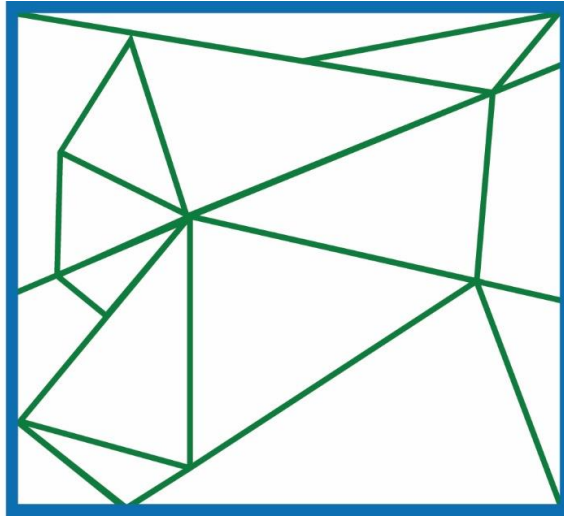
About the organization (STJ)

[Syrians for Truth and Justice \(STJ\)](#) is an independent, nongovernmental organization whose members include Syrian human rights defenders, advocates and academics of different backgrounds and nationalities.

The initiative strives for SYRIA, where all Syrian citizens (males and females) have dignity, equality, justice and equal human rights.

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Having taken control over Yarmouk camp-southern Damascus, following an evacuation deal with ISIL, Syrian regular forces arrested at least 20 people, as part of a security campaign targeting scores of residents in the camp, on May 21, 2018, according to local sources.

The media activist "Tariq Mansour", from Yarmouk camp, who was recently displaced to northern Aleppo countryside, said in an interview with STJ, on May 25, 2018, that members of the Regime forces arrested 20 civilians, including a woman, for refusing to leave Yarmouk camp on 23 May. They were gathered later in a "Biscuit Factory", on Palestine Street, and then driven to an unknown destination, according to local sources from within the camp Mansour had contacted.

The media activist Ismail Matar, who was also recently displaced to northern countryside of Aleppo, said in an interview with STJ on May 25, 2018 that most of the detainees were Palestinian refugees and he could identify two of them who are "Fawzi Hamid", a member of the Palestinian Civil Authority and President of The Civil Council in Yarmouk camp and the teacher Afif Abu Rashid.

A displaced activist from the Yarmouk camp, who refused to reveal his name, provided information about the detainees, and said that regime relocated them to al-Herjalleh shelter in rural Damascus and vowed to release them soon.



Image Shows "Fawzi Hamdi", President of the Civil Council in Yarmouk camp and member of the Palestinian Civil Authority, arrested by the Regime forces in Yarmouk camp on May 23, 2018.

Photo credit: local activists.

The activist Ismail Matar confirmed the identity of the person in the image to STJ.



Image shows "Afif Abu Rashid", arrested by Syrian regime forces in Yarmouk camp on May 23, 2018.
Photo credit: local activists.

The activist Ismail Matar confirmed the identity of the person in the image to STJ.

The number of Palestinian refugees detained by the Syrian regime is 1674, including 106 women, according to the [statistics of the "Action Group for Palestinians of Syria."](#)

According to opposition [Facebook news pages](#) quoting eyewitnesses in Yarmouk Camp, Regime forces conducted raids at dawn on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, against three houses in Safed Street and expelled their inhabitants on the pretext that "it is not authorized for civilians to return."

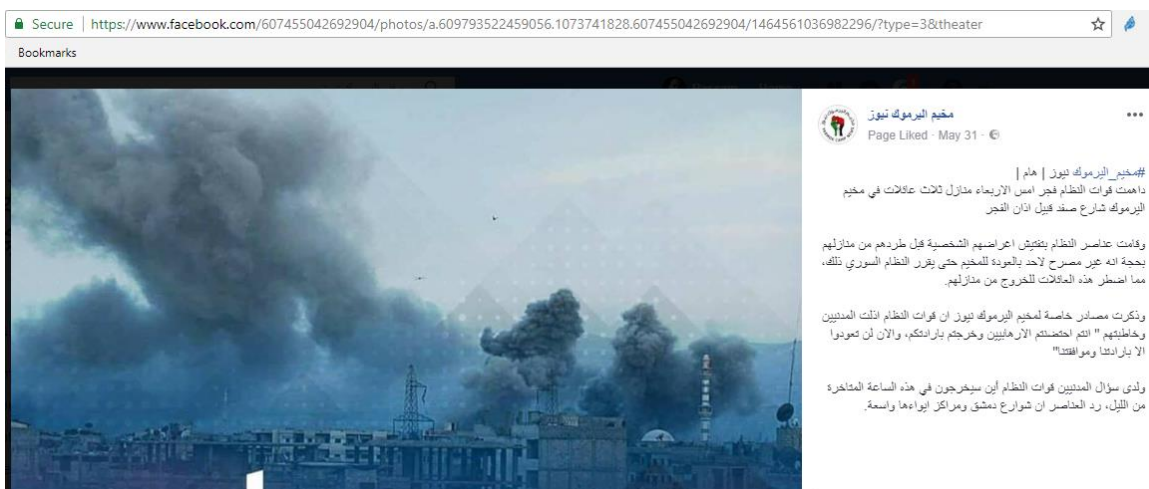


Image shows a [post](#) published by the Yarmouk Camp News, in which it stated that Syrian regular forces conducted raids.



In another incident, activist Tariq Mansour told STJ that members of the National Defense arrested a person suffering from a mental disorder named "Issa Yahya," upon entering Tadamon neighborhood on May 21, 2018, on charges of belonging to ISIL, they took him to Nisreen Street where the regime loyalists beat and insulted him, and his fate was not known afterwards, according to "Mansour". ["Mansour" referred to a footage showing "Issa Yahya" being beaten.](#)

"Issa Yahya Abu Zeid" is a displaced young man from Daraa province, born in 1987. About four years ago he took several kinds of medication randomly at once, as a result of the psychological crisis he was suffered due to lack of health care, which led him to mental disorder. He was living homeless in Tadamon neighborhood, according to Mansour.



Image shows the young man Issa Yahya handcuffed by Syrian regular forces agents, where he appeared getting beat up in a footage.

The activist Tariq Mansour confirmed identity of the young man in the image and footage to STJ.