



**News Release**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**Inside Report on Yarmuk Refugee Camp and the Syrian Uprising**  
**Published by *Journal of Palestine Studies***

Washington, DC, February 3, 2014 – A new report published in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* provides an inside perspective on the crisis in Yarmuk camp in Damascus, Syria. Author Nidal Bitari of Yarmuk camp describes firsthand the events leading up to the ruinous entry of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) into the camp in December 2012. The report provides a detailed account of how the camp has coped with the turmoil since and the determined efforts of Palestinian residents to preserve the camp's neutrality. Yarmuk camp currently faces a blockade enforced by the Syrian regime that has resulted in scores of civilian deaths from starvation and malnutrition. The majority of casualties have been children.

Yarmuk is Syria's largest Palestinian refugee camp, established in the wake of the 1948 Nakba and housing about 150,000 refugees. Bitari's report provides the first detailed account of the internal battle for the camp's neutrality. Bitari describes the different factions and interests struggling for control of the strategically located camp in Syria's capital. The attempts by the PLO to protect residents from shelling are also described along with the failures of the PLO and UNRWA to reach the residents of Yarmuk, under siege.

"The war in Syria is a terrible and horrific tragedy for all Syrians, but it is as much a tragedy, though in a different way, for the Palestinians who lived among them," says Bitari.

Bitari will be speaking on the crisis in Yarmuk and faced by Palestinians in Syria in Washington, DC on February 6<sup>th</sup> at [The Jerusalem Fund](#) from 12:30 to 2 pm.

Nidal Bitari's report "Yarmuk Refugee Camp and the Syrian Uprising: A View from Within" appears in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* vol. 43, no. 1 (Autumn 2013) co-published by the Institute for Palestine Studies USA Inc. and University of California Press.

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Full text of the article is available upon request. Contact Paige Brownlow at 202-342-3990 ext. 13 or [paigeb@palestine-studies.org](mailto:paigeb@palestine-studies.org) to obtain a copy or to schedule an interview with Nidal Bitari.

### **About the Author**

**Nidal Bitari** is a Syrian Palestinian journalist from Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus. He left Syria for Lebanon in December 2011, and then came to the United States in April 2013. From the time he left the camp, he has been in almost daily contact with friends and colleagues in the camp. He is the founder of the Palestinian Association for Human Rights in Syria and was also a freelance consultant for NPR in Syria, a researcher for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and a translator for the McClatchy company. His work has been published in many widely read sources throughout the Arab world, including *Al Akhbar*, *Al Hayat*, *Al Safir* and the *Journal of Palestine Studies*. He holds a Master's degree in Political Sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Damascus.

### **About the *Journal of Palestine Studies***

The *Journal of Palestine Studies* is the oldest and most respected English language publication devoted exclusively to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It provides timely and comprehensive information on the region's political, religious, and cultural concerns. With an emphasis on peaceful resolution of conflict, the journal unites sound research and analysis with a variety of well-informed perspectives by academics, policymakers, and diplomats. Published quarterly, the *Journal of Palestine Studies* is a vital resource for anyone interested in the Palestine Question. It is published by the Institute for Palestine Studies USA, a non-profit organization dedicated to research on Palestine. (<http://www.palestine-studies.org>)

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