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التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Activists Slam Greece for Pushing Back Migrants

- UNRWA Re-Opens Clinic in Deraa Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Vulnerable Palestinian Families in Deraa Launch Distress Signals
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Slam Local Governor



Latest Developments

Protestors from human rights organizations descended on the Greek island of Lesbos on Saturday to oppose the deadly pushbacks of migrants trying to reach Europe.

The demonstrators expressed their frustration with the Greek coast guard and the EU border protection agency Frontex and the role the two play in the dangerous practice.

"Pushbacks kill people" and "Burn borders" were some of the slogans on the placards hoisted by the protesters as they marched along the harbor of Lesbos, according to media reports.

Greek Shipping Minister Giannis Plakiotakis had said Friday that all complaints about pushbacks by Greek forces had turned out to be unsubstantiated. Pushbacks are illegal under international law.

But aid groups have charged for years that Greek officials are pushing people back to Turkey. Frequent media reports and research have continued to point to evidence that it is happening.

However, Greece argues that it is simply protecting its own borders, which also happen to be the external boundaries of the European Union.

"The first priority is protecting lives, in line with international law," according to Plakiotakis on Friday. He also noted that tens of thousands of people have been rescued in the Mediterranean in recent years.

Turkey and human rights groups have repeatedly condemned Greece's illegal practice of pushbacks, saying it violates humanitarian values and international law by endangering the lives of vulnerable migrants, including women and children.

The Turkish Coast Guard Command said on June 20 that it has rescued 33,964 irregular migrants in 1,295 pushback incidents carried out by the Greek coast guard since 2020. Ankara has strongly urged Greece and the European Union to act in accordance with international law and human rights in order to end the pushbacks.



In another development, the health centre run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Deraa Camp, south of Syria, has gone operative following reconstruction works.

The residents acclaimed the move, saying the sick and elderly will be able to receive medical treatment without having to travel for dozens of kilometers as had previously been the case.

The health centre includes units for family planning, antenatal care, mother and child care, as well as a department for non-communicable diseases and chronic diseases, laboratory tests, dental care, along with psychological support.

The health centre provides much-needed healthcare services to over 10,000 Palestinian refugees sheltered in Deraa and its refugee camp.

Along similar lines, residents of Deraa Camp have appealed to expatriates to raise funds for vulnerable families in the area.

UN data indicates that Deraa refugee camp is located inside Deraa City, in southern Syria. Palestinian refugees came to the Deraa area in two waves in 1948 and in 1967.

However, as the recent conflict unraveled, the camp became engulfed by violence and 90 per cent of the camp population had to leave the camp and seek safety in other areas such as Deraa city, Damascus or Jordan. Most UNRWA services were moved to alternative premises in Deraa city.

Deraa camp and its surroundings returned to government control in the summer of 2018. The camp is now largely destroyed. UNRWA was able to return to Deraa camp in November 2018 to conduct a needs assessment. Inside Deraa camp, all premises including three school buildings and a clinic need substantial repairs or complete rebuilding.

Deraa camp was home to 10,500 Palestine refugees before 2011. As of November 2018, 400 Palestine refugee families have returned since the camp returned to government hands.

As of February 2020, some 800 families had returned to Deraa camp and 750 students to the UNRWA schools, according to UNRWA.



The camp was initially set up on an area of 0.04 square kilometers, and it now covers an area of 1.3 square kilometers. In addition to the 10,500 Palestine refugees in the camp, there were more than 17,500 Palestine refugees living in neighboring Syrian villages before the conflict. Most of them worked as farmers on Syrian-owned lands, others were employed as wage laborers, government workers and a few as UNRWA staff.

The older part of the camp was established in 1950-51 for refugees from the northern and eastern parts of Palestine following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Next to the old camp is the newer part, which was set up in 1967 for some 4,200 Palestine refugees who were forced to leave the Quneitra Governorate in the Golan following the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, have denounced the mistreatment and apathy of the newly-appointed chief.

The chief has reportedly cracked down on civilians and slapped complicated red tape that fails to take into consideration the residents' abject humanitarian condition already marred by protracted displacement and loss of livelihoods.

The new governor, affiliated with the Syrian regime, has also been subjecting the residents who show up at his office to intensive questioning.

Living conditions in Khan Eshieh have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After more than eleven years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs. The vast majority of families have been living below the poverty line.