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التقرير اليومي



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

AGPS Urges Greece to Cease Human Rights Abuses against Asylum Seekers

- **Khan Dannun Camp Gripped with Water Crisis**
- **Red Cross Delegation Shows Up in Hindarat Refugee Camp**
- **Transportation Crisis in AlHusainiya Camp Exacerbated by Satellite-Based Surveillance**



Latest Developments

The Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) in London has called on Greece to cease violent deportations of and human rights abuses against migrants and asylum seekers fleeing war and economic hardship.

After becoming one of the main destination points during the migration crisis of 2015, Athens has hardened its policy in recent years by increasing land and sea patrols, extending a border fence and building camps with much stricter security on its islands near Turkey.

Greece said last month it would not allow the illegal entry of migrants by land or by sea, after an increase in attempted entries through its Aegean islands and land border with Turkey.

According to a considerable number of testimonies from asylum-seekers, Greek authorities are engaged in illegal pushbacks and violent attacks against migrants.

The migrants suffered theft, sexual assault and electric shock. Scores of them were also forced to undress and drowned. Children were exposed to or witnessed violence and abuse.

These illegal practices constitute a flagrant breach of Article 33(1) of the 1951 Refugee Convention, containing the cardinal principle of non-refoulement, which literally translates to ‘no pushbacks.’ Accordingly, states are prohibited from “expel[ling] or return[ing] a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories, where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”

The Turkish Coast Guard Command said it has rescued tens of thousands of irregular migrants in hundreds of pushback incidents carried out by the Greek coast guard since 2020.

Greece and the European Union should act in accordance with international law and human rights in order to end the pushbacks.

Turkey and human rights groups have repeatedly condemned Greece's illegal practice of pushing back irregular migrants, saying



it violates humanitarian values and international law by endangering the lives of vulnerable migrants, including women and children.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands have made short but perilous journeys across the Aegean to reach Northern and Western Europe in search of a better life. Hundreds of people have died at sea as many boats carrying refugees sank or capsized. The Turkish Coast Guard Command has rescued thousands of others.

Turkey and Greece have been key transit points for migrants looking to cross into Europe, fleeing war and persecution to start new lives. Turkey has accused Greece of large-scale pushbacks, summary deportations and denying migrants access to asylum procedures, violating international law. Ankara also accuses the EU of turning a blind eye to this blatant human rights abuse.

In another development, residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian refugees in Rif Dimashq have set off alarm bells over the acute water crisis which has been ongoing for years across a number of residential neighborhoods.

Civilians have been forced to purchase potable water at 7,000 Syrian pounds a tank (five barrels).

The residents said the main water tank in the area has been unevenly distributed, calling on the government institutions and UNRWA to urgently step in and take serious measures in response to the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the unbridled warfare.

According to UN data, Khan Dannun camp, which lies 23 km south of Damascus, was officially established in 1950-1951 on an area of 0.03 square kilometers. The camp was home to 10,000 Palestine refugees by 2011.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was already one of the poorest camps in Syria. Most refugees worked as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands, others are wage laborers, while a few commuted to industrial plants.



The conflict exerted additional pressures. The camp was surrounded by armed opposition groups and many refugee families displaced from other areas of Damascus took refuge in the camp, tripling the number of residents to some 30,000 during the crisis. Two UNRWA schools premises were converted into collective shelters to give accommodation to more than 130 families between 2012 and 2018. Currently, the camp is home to 12,650 Palestine refugees.

The increase of the camp population has had a negative impact on the camp's infrastructure, affecting the electric network and the sewerage system. The camp suffers from sporadic sewage blockages due to the increased pressure on the existent sewerage system, which was designed for only 10,000 inhabitants, while there are now significantly more. Water supply resources have also been affected and the camp suffers from water shortages, especially during the summer months.

Many school children have dropped out or work after school hours to support their families. The camp also suffers from a high incidence of inherited diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anemia.

Meanwhile, representatives of the International Red Cross paid a visit to Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees to inspect the humanitarian situation in the area and civilians' access to water.

Recently, the Red Cross provided the camp with water tanks.

The General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in partnership with OXFAM started a project to rehabilitate the main water tank in the camp.

Palestinian refugees have been grappling with dire conditions in the area due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with



other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.

Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.

In the meantime, residents of AlHusainiya refugee camp continue to grapple with a transportation crisis which they said has been exacerbated by the launch of the Geographic Positioning Service (GPS).

Civilians continue to denounce the exorbitant prices of public transportation following the latest surge in subsidized fuel prices.

A number of day labourers and students find no other way than to board private vehicles at a price of up to 2,500 pounds a ticket.

Over recent years, residents of AlHusainiya camp have denounced the absence of vital services in the area. The transportation crisis, price leap, absence of relief assistance and healthcare, power and water crises, and high rates of unemployment have made survival quite difficult for dozens of displaced Palestinian families.

Located some 15 kilometers away from Damascus, AlHusainiya Camp, like other areas in Syria, is overwhelmed by displacement, unemployment, inflation, and lack of protection among other major concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike during the ongoing conflict in Syria.