



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

10-05-2020

No. 2756

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees in Gilin Town Raise Concerns over Mass Displacement"

- Residents of Yarmouk Camp Appeal for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance
- Palestinian Refugees in AlRashidiya Camp Denounce Uncontrolled Weapon Possession
- Greece Pushes Back Migrant Boats to Turkey

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Latest Developments

Some 150 Palestinian families taking refuge in Gilin town, in Daraa's western outskirts, continue to sound distress signals over the unbearable situation they have been enduring in the area, raising concerns over a projected mass displacement of civilians from the area due to the security turmoil.

Over recent days, a state of panic has overwhelmed the Palestinian refugee community in Gilin town after nine policemen were killed in the nearby Muzeireeb town by a so-called Mohamed Kasem Subeihi to avenge the death of his son and relative who were kidnapped sometime earlier.

Reports have also emerged about the intent of the Syrian government to roll into de-escalation zones in Daraa and deploy armed troops in the area.

Gilin's infrastructure and public amenities have sustained massive destruction in the warfare. Civilians wishing to have access to healthcare facilities often head for AlMuzeireeb town as no clinics are operative in Gilin.

Civilians said shelling and bloody shootouts between the government forces and former opposition affiliates have forced dozens out of their homes.

The situation has gone downhill due to the lockdown imposed across the area to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

There is only one UNRWA-run school in Gilin operating on two shifts.



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Located some 25 kilometers away northwest of Daraa's city center, Gilin Camp was home to 5,000 families displaced from the occupied Palestinian territories.

In another development, education chief in Yarmouk Camp, Walid AlKurdi, and Palestinian activists have launched calls for assisting vulnerable families taking shelter in the area.

In a Facebook statement, AlKurdi said families displaced from Yarmouk to surrounding areas and those who remained in the camp live below the poverty line.

He called on the concerned authorities and human rights organizations to take urgent humanitarian action in response to the squalid conditions endured by Yarmouk residents.

Over recent weeks, Palestinian refugees sheltered across the Syrian territories have kept urging UNRWA to assist them in their fight against the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Activists have lashed out at UNRWA and the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) over their unresponsiveness regarding the cries for help launched by the Palestinian refugee community in Syria due to coronavirus outbreak.

The Syrian government forces regained control over Yarmouk Camp and southern Damascus towns following a 33-day military operation launched in April 2018. Dozens of civilians were killed and dozens more injured in the offensive. Over 60% of buildings have gone either totally or partially destroyed in the warfare.



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Along similar lines, dozens of displaced Palestinian families sheltered in AlRashidiya camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sur, have launched cries for help over the security mayhem rocking the area due to the uncontrolled circulation of weapons and frequent clashes.

On Friday, May 8, a fight that started between two people took away the life of one person and left three others wounded.

Statistics conducted by local NGOs documented a remarkable decrease in the number of Palestinian families from Syria sheltered in AlRashidiya camp owing to the life-threatening security turmoil along with the dire socio-economic conditions and ambivalent legal status endured by the displaced families.

In the meantime, the Greek authorities have intercepted migrant boats at sea and pushed them back to Turkey.

Human rights activists said several migrants sailing from Aegean coast have been forced back to Turkey by Greek police.

The activists slammed the Greek authorities for violating European Union treaties and human rights conventions.

Over recent years, activists have held the Greek authorities responsible for the mounting tension in overcrowded migrant facilities, saying refugees have been psychologically distressed due to the substandard living conditions they have been made to endure in reception centers and the absence of life-saving healthcare services at a time when reports of coronavirus cases have soared.



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The migrants, including hundreds of Palestinian refugees, have been subjected to dire conditions on the island and deprived of their basic human rights, including access to water, power, and relief services.

Recently, human rights groups have warned that Greek police have been using tear gas, water cannon, and stun grenades to push back the border crossers.

Greek authorities have made no secret of their resolve and even their use of aggressive tactics to block illegal crossings. But the government in Athens is denying accusations of deadly attacks on migrants.

In a March 17 report last year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Greek security forces and unidentified armed men at the Greece-Turkey land border have detained, assaulted, sexually assaulted, robbed, and stripped asylum seekers and migrants, then forced them back to Turkey.

Between March 7 and 9, Human Rights Watch interviewed 21 asylum seekers and migrants, 17 of whom were men and 4 women, in Turkey about how they tried to enter Greece over the land border following the Turkish government's February 27 announcement that it would no longer stop asylum seekers and migrants from leaving Turkey to reach the European Union.

All those interviewed said that within hours after they crossed in boats or waded through the river, armed men wearing various law enforcement uniforms or in civilian clothes, including all in black with balaclavas, intercepted everyone in their group.



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All said the men detained them in official or informal detention centers, or on the roadside, and stole their money, mobile phones, and bags before summarily pushing them back to Turkey.

Seventeen interviewees also described how the men assaulted them and others, including women and children, through electric shocks, beating with wooden or metal rods, prolonged beating of the soles of feet, punching, kicking, and stomping.