



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

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Polyglot Palestinian Girl Gets Highest Score at Damascus University"

- Classrooms Shut in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria over Coronavirus Propagation
- Palestinian Red Crescent Delegation Visits AlAyedeen Camp in Hums
- New Visa Procedures Issued by Syrian Embassy for Military Conscripts
- European Countries Accused of Endangering Lives of Refugees Crossing Mediterranean



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Latest Developments

Palestinian student Lama Abu Shkeir has garnered the highest score at the department of Spanish Literature at Damascus Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences.

Aged 21, Lama masters eight languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, German, Italian, and Greek. She started learning languages at the age of 11.

Data released by AGPS on the International Day of the Girl Child, observed annually by the United Nations on October 11, revealed the strong determination and iron will shown by Palestinian girls in and from Syria despite of the traumatic memories wrought by Syria's ten-year warfare.

In another development, classes have been partly suspended at the UNRWA-run Damon School in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees after two cases of coronavirus were reported among schoolchildren.

The instructor has also been home-quarantined after she tested positive for the highly-contagious virus.

Recently, a state of emergency has been declared by medics in AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees after a number of students tested positive for the highly-contagious virus.

A few months ago, the Akka School administration in AlNeirab Camp suspended courses at a classroom after a student tested



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positive for coronavirus. The student was home-quarantined for 14 days and classes suspended for five days.

Along similar lines, a Red Crescent delegation led by Dr. Atef Ibrahim paid a visit on March 11 to Bisan Hospital in AlAyedeen Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Hums city.

The delegation inspected the health services provided by medical staff and called for increasing efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Palestinians taking shelter in AlAyedeen Camp in Hums have been facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the price leap, sharp shortage in fuel supplies, the frequent power blackouts, and absence of humanitarian assistance. High rates of unemployment and the security turmoil rocking the region have made the situation far more alarming.

In the meantime, the Syrian Embassy in Beirut issued on March 10 new instructions regarding visas for military conscripts in Syria.

The Embassy said in a statement that visas for conscripts residing in the Syrian territories will be extended to 90 days per year.

Conscripts residing outside the Syrian territories should not be absent for over 90 days per year, must reside in the country for an additional 60 days, and must pay 200 USD. Expatriate conscripts in Syria can submit applications for visa renewal before the 90-day time limit.



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The Syrian regime continues to drag Palestinian refugees into mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

Meanwhile, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights said European countries must urgently change their migration policies which endanger refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean

“European countries are failing to protect refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean. Backsliding in the protection of the lives and rights of refugees and migrants is worsening and causing thousands of avoidable deaths each year”, said Dunja Mijatović, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, while releasing a report entitled “A Distress Call for Human Rights: The widening gap in migrant protection in the Mediterranean”.

The report takes stock of member states’ implementation of the Commissioner’s 2019 Recommendation on rescuing migrants at sea and provides a set of actionable measures to be urgently taken by European states to ensure a human rights compliant approach to sea crossings.



This report stresses that, despite some limited progress, the human rights situation in the Mediterranean remains deplorable. Shipwrecks continue to be worryingly recurrent, with more than 2,400 registered deaths in the period under consideration, a number which may well under-represent the real tally of deadly incidents.

The growing disengagement of states' naval capacity from the Mediterranean and the hindrance of NGOs' rescue activities, as well as decisions to delay disembarkation and failure to assign a safe port, have undermined the integrity of the search and rescue system.

“On the Central Mediterranean route specifically, many developments appearing to be aimed at ‘clearing the field’ for interceptions by the Libyan Coast Guard have become institutionalised, leading to almost 20,000 recorded returns to serious human rights violations in Libya”, wrote the Commissioner.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to the adoption of more restrictive measures, which have a direct negative impact on the human rights of migrants.

In order to halt the widening of the gap in the protection of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean and reverse the situation, the Commissioner renewed her call on Council of Europe member states to implement swiftly her recommendations to ensure the preservation of human life and the protection of the human rights of people in distress at sea.



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In particular, she recommended guaranteeing the presence of adequate and sufficient state-led search and rescue capacity at sea; ensuring safe and prompt disembarkation of those rescued; allowing NGOs involved in search and rescue activities or human rights monitoring to carry out their work; ending pushbacks and other actions that expose refugees and migrants to return to serious human rights violations; and expanding safe and legal routes.

“It is high time for European countries to put an end to this shameful tragedy and to adopt human rights compliant migration policies. Member states must no longer delay taking action to save lives. It is a matter of life or death – and of the credibility of European countries’ commitment to human rights,” concluded the Commissioner.