



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

15-01-2020

No. 2639

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Palestinian Family Appeals for Release of Refugee Woman from Egyptian Jail"

- **Palestinian Refugees Overburdened by Travel Document Fees**
- **Palestinian Woman Aesha AlKafri Forcibly Disappeared in Syria for 7th Year**
- **Palestinian Refugee among 171 Migrants Intercepted in Izmir**
- **Food Aid Handed Over to Displaced Palestinian Families North of Syria**

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



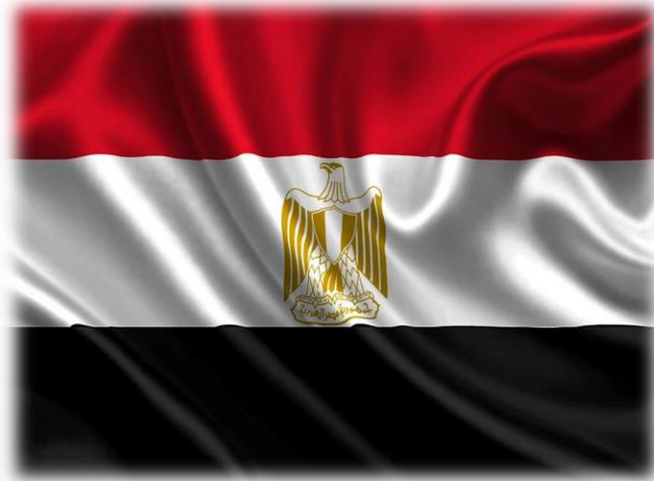
مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

## Latest Developments

Activists and relatives of a Palestinian refugee from Syria have appealed to the Palestine Embassy in Egypt, human rights organizations, and civil society institutions to urge the Egyptian authorities to release her from prison.

The family of Hafidha Husain AlSoutari, born in 1967, said she has been held in an Egyptian detention center in Aswan since August 1, 2019 over charges of illegally entering Egypt through Sudan.

Hafida reportedly suffers serious health disorders and needs special medical treatment. Her family has appealed to the international humanitarian organizations to pressurize the Egyptian government to take urgent action in response to their appeals and save their daughter before it is too late.



Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. They have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.



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

Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.

As a result, the number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Egypt has dramatically shrunk back over the past three years. AGPS data indicates that the number in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

Along similar lines, thousands of Palestinians from Syria who have fled to other destinations have been unable to pay the steep fees of visa-renewal procedures in the new destinations.

Renewing travel documents costs up to \$300. The applicant is required to pay \$800 if he/she expects to have travel documents renewed in no more than eight days. In most cases, applicants receive a two-year renewal.

Palestinian refugees also face difficulties trying to get in touch with Syrian consulates and embassies due to overcrowding. The situation is often made more complicated by the so-called “brokers of appointments” who have close ties with staff members at the consulate or the embassy. At times, a meeting is sold by such parties at \$300.

Meanwhile, a total of 171 irregular migrants, including women and children who were trying to reach Greece's islands, were held by



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

Turkish Coast Guard on January 13, 2019 in Menderes and Urla districts of Turkey's Izmir province.

The Turkish Coast Guard said that 122 of the arrested migrants are Afghani nationals, 28 Syrians, nine Congolese, 6 from the Republic of Togo, and two migrants from Central Africa and Egypt. Another migrant has been identified as a Palestinian refugee and one more as a Nigerian.



The migrants were referred to the Directorate of Immigration in Izmir pending the finalization of legal procedures.

Turkey has been a key transit point for migrants trying to reach Europe, mainly via Greece. Many are fleeing violence and persecution in their countries. Many rely on people smugglers and face dangerous land and sea routes which often result in deaths.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Aesha Mohamed AlKafri, born in 1968, has been secretly incarcerated in Syrian government jails for seven years running.

Aesha, a resident of Palestine Street in Yarmouk refugee camp, was kidnapped by government forces at the Batikha checkpoint in mid-2013. Her condition and whereabouts could not be identified.



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

AGPS documented the secret detention of over 1,760 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups. Some 330 refugees have also gone missing in the country.

In another development, the European AlWafaa Campaign distributed on Monday food parcels to displaced Palestinian and Syrian families taking refuge in I'zaz refugee camp and Efrin area, north of Syria.

Families taking shelter in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya refugee camps in Idlib also received meals.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in Idlib, AlMuhammadiya Camp, and Deir Ballout Camp, in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

