

LANDESGERICHT FÜR STRAF  
STAATSANWALTSCHAFT  
GRAZ  
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## التقرير اليومي



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

### **Austrian Court Sentences Palestinian Refugee to 15 Years in Prison**

- **Palestinian among 5 People Remanded in Greece over Human Smuggling Allegations**
- **Palestinian Students in Syria Displacement Camp Revise for Exams on Candle Light**
- **Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Lash Out at NRC**



## Latest Developments

A court in the Austrian city of Graz issued on Thursday a verdict sentencing a 44-year-old Palestinian refugee to 15 years in prison.

The refugee is accused of opening fire at protesters in the Syrian capital city of Damascus as he fought alongside the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, affiliated with the Syrian regime. A number of protesters were reportedly killed in the shooting.

Austrian newspaper Kronen said the stateless convict lived in Graz. He presented himself at the court as a Palestinian-Syrian.

An eye-witness said the convict along with other gunmen opened fire at anti-government protesters in Damascus in 2022, resulting in several civilian deaths.

The convict's lawyer said the witness is untrustworthy and that his client had not been residing in Damascus at the time of the attack.

Along similar lines, Greek police arrested on January 03, 2023 four Turkish nationals and a Palestinian accused of being members of a ring that smuggled migrants from Turkey to the Greek island of Kos.

The arrestees have been remanded in custody.

The four Turkish nationals were arrested while transporting 43 migrants to Kos on two speedboats, which were intercepted by the coast guard.

According to the coast guard, the ring charged migrants 3,500 each to be smuggled to Greece.

The Palestinian, who was arrested on Kos, is accused of transporting the migrants to safe houses after they disembarked.

The five arrested persons appeared on Sunday before a prosecutor on Kos and charged with participation in a criminal, human-smuggling organization.

In the meantime, Palestinian and Syrian schoolchildren and students in the northern Syria refugee camps of Hindarat and



AlNeirab have been severely affected by the power crisis rocking the area.

Academic output has seen a remarkable deterioration as students revise for exams on candle light.

Acute shortage in fuel along with price inflation have made life unbearable in the area for schoolchildren and parents alike.

Overcrowded classrooms, the lack of teaching staff (many of them have been arrested and/or tortured), along with the absence of school furniture and educational aids have added bad to worse.

Several schoolchildren have dropped out of school due to long shifts, which last for over nine hours daily in an area where the conflict has a heavy toll on students' intellectual output and psychological wellbeing.

Upon more than one occasion, UNRWA has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.

In another development, Palestinian-Syrian activists in Lebanon have slammed the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) of manipulating the refugees' suffering to mobilize funds for their campaigns.

A number of PRS accused NRC of lacking transparency and called on the refugees to boycott the organization.

“The NRC is collecting funds at our own expense”, said a Palestinian refugee. “Recently, NRC staff have paid money to UNRWA staff in order to receive personal information about a number of PRS in Lebanon and use the data to their own ends”.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own



property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.