



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

15-12-2019

No. 2608

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"85 Palestinian Refugees from Syria Land on Greece Islands since Early December"

- UNRWA Aids for Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Delayed
- Mismanagement Allegations Emerge against UNRWA Office in Syria
- UN Extends Mandate of Palestine Refugee Agency for 3 Years

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard Greece-bound boats, fleeing war-torn Syria among other tension-stricken countries.

An AGPS reporter said 85 Palestinian refugees from Syria have disembarked on such Greek Islands as Chios, Samos, and Mytilene.

Greece reportedly deported about 60,000 migrants to Turkey between 2017 and 2018, according to a report on the online news portal of weekly German magazine Spiegel, published last month.

According to Spiegel, Turkey accused Greece of not properly dealing with the asylum status of migrants. Instead, Turkish Interior Ministry filed claim that Greece illegally transported 58,283 people to Turkey in the 12 month period leading up to November 1, 2018.



"Push back" of asylum seekers is considered illegitimate under European and international law. Governments are required to seriously assess the asylum status of new migrants rather than forcing them back to another country.



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Last year, AGPS released a shocking report about a group of migrants who were discovered by villagers in Turkey's northwestern Edirne province in a run-down and naked state, after they were reportedly beaten up and stripped of their clothes and belongings by Greek police.

The migrants, including Yemeni and Palestinian refugees, were found while walking in open fields by locals of Kiremitçi Salih village in Uzunköprü district on the eastern bank of the Maritsa River forming the border between Turkey and Greece.

Live snapshots showed all migrants with visible signs of battery on their backs and all over their bodies.

The incident was the latest string of events involving police violence against migrants fleeing war-torn zones. Similar incidents have also taken place on the Aegean, where coast guards have been accused of deflating migrant boats and re-routing them back to Turkish territorial waters.

Based on the accounts of the illegally deported migrants, Greek police officers are also accused of confiscating migrants' valuable possessions and torturing them, before pushing them back on the border, in violation of international law.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards near the borders.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover in such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas in Greece.



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In another development, the Association of Displaced Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon said UNRWA's winter allowances will be shelved out after December 17, 2019.

The association attributed the delay to unexpected problems in banking emissions. No official statement has been released by UNRWA in this regard, though.

Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon have protested the delay in the delivery of much-needed aids in light of the dire humanitarian condition they have been enduring.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have sought shelter in Lebanon, where they have been subjected to a precarious legal status and dire socio-economic conditions owing to their lack of access to vital services and the local labor market.

Meanwhile, residents of Daraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, accused UNRWA staff of mismanagement and nepotism.

In a letter emailed to AGPS, the residents said signs of unfair recruitment procedures have emerged at UNRWA's Daraa office as members of same families received jobs while others' demands were turned down.

They added that all recruited workers are residents of Daraa city and none of them is from Daraa refugee camp.

The residents denounced corruption and nepotism in Daraa, saying UNRWA should have appointed all cash-stripped civilians for six months in order to reduce unemployment rates in the area.



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Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees has been grappling with abject conditions as a result of the fallouts wrought by the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. 80% of civilian homes and property were destroyed. An acute shortage in medicines and much-needed items has made life unbearable in the area.



In another development, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed the final vote to renew the mandate of the UN Palestine refugee agency for another three years, amid an ongoing probe into alleged mismanagement issues and strong opposition by the US and Israel.

The overwhelming vote to extend the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) until June 30, 2023, came on Friday, with 169 votes in favor and nine abstentions. The United States and Israel voted against.

Over the past couple of years, UNRWA has faced budgetary difficulties after the US - its largest donor - halted its aid of \$360m per year.



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UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl resigned Last month, amid an investigation into misconduct allegations. Krahenbuhl has denied wrongdoing and said his agency was the victim of a political campaign designed to undermine it.

UNRWA was established 70 years ago and provides essential services to Palestine refugees based on a mandate given to it by the General Assembly which is renewed every three years. UNRWA is experiencing the worst financial deficit in its 70 year history and is seeking to overcome a financial gap of nearly US\$ 89 million before the end of the year.

UNRWA provides a humanitarian lifeline to some 5.4 million registered Palestine refugees across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight.