



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



### Palestinian Popular Committees Push for Investigation into Mismanagement by UNRWA Staff

- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Call for Protest Move Outside of UNRWA Office in Jordan
- Palestinians among Hundreds of Homeless Refugees in Athens
- PLA Push for Military Conscription in Syria
- 42 Migrants Rescued off Turkish Seashore

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## Latest Developments

The Coalition of Popular Committees of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon has called on UNRWA to open an investigation into corruption and bribery allegations against distribution staff working for the Agency.

The coalition said the mistreatment the refugees have been subjected to during aid delivery processes at Bob Finance office bank are proofs of mismanagement by UNRWA staff members and administration.

The coalition called on UNRWA to resume transfer of cash grants to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and to set a practical mechanism to monitor distribution processes.

Last week, UNRWA announced its decision to suspend cash aid transfer for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon pending the finalization of the required checks.

The Agency said aid distribution will be suspended starting June 11 until further notice.

UNRWA said transaction codes previously sent to the refugees along with ad hoc hotlines will also be temporarily invalidated.

A few weeks ago, UNRWA in Lebanon said it will start implementing an online program to transfer cash grants to Palestinian refugees in an attempt to rein in overcrowding outside of the Bob Finance bank.

UNRWA said the e-system will allow the Agency to determine the number of registered refugees pending the delivery of their cash



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allowances. A hotline was also established to renew old registration cards obtained before 2009.

The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.

Along similar lines, activists and Palestinian families displaced from Syria to Jordan have launched calls for a mass participation in an open vigil to be held outside of UNRWA's head office in Amman in order to pressurize the Agency to take urgent action regarding their calamitous humanitarian condition.

The refugees continue to call on the Agency to implement practical strategies in order to provide the vulnerable families with much-needed cash and in-kind relief items.

They further appealed to the Agency to shell out financial aid as their socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the curfew and movement restrictions imposed in the kingdom.

The number of PRS in Jordan has remained relatively stable for a number of years, with 17,343 PRS recorded with UNRWA as of



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December 2019. Of these, 349 reside in King Abdullah Park (KAP), facing movement restrictions and a number of protection concerns.

Since the opening of Jabeer-Al Nassib border between Syria and Jordan, in October 2018, UNRWA has registered the return of 624 PRS individuals to Syria. As of November 2019, of those returnees, some 227 individuals were displaced again to Jordan for a range of reasons, including the unstable security situation in Syria, problems with civil documentation, lack of economic resources and livelihood opportunities, and high levels of destruction of homes and property.

A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2018 indicated that the majority (67 per cent) of PRS were food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Twelve per cent of PRS female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to seven per cent of male-headed households. Food insecurity was even higher (78 per cent) in PRS households where the head of household was reported to be completely illiterate. Eighty-six per cent of surveyed PRS households were also reported to be in debt.

In another development, calls were circulated by the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian government forces, to push for military conscription.

PLA called on Palestinian youths in AlNeirab and Handarat refugee camps, north of Syria, to join its military training held at Basel AlAssad Institute for Military training in Mesyaf town.



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In late November 2019, PLA appointed a delegate in Aleppo's AlNeirab Camp to work out the situation of Palestinian young men who had failed to join compulsory military draft.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Shortly after the outburst of the deadly warfare, the Syrian government forced Palestinian refugees aged 18 and above to join affiliated militias for periods of at least one year and a half.

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, hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers, including Palestinian refugees, have been left without a roof over their heads in Athens after the Greek authorities ruled for evacuating migrant shelters.

An AGPS reporter said dozens of refugee families have been living rough as most of them do not have enough money to pay exorbitant rental fees.

Greek government officials, in cooperation with a delegation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), toured migrant camps pitched on Greek islands.

An AGPS reporter said the delegations paid visits to buildings and shelters housing migrants and asylum seekers and officially notified them that holders of visa cards will have their cash allowances



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suspended pending their transfer to the Greek mainland by the end of this month.

The decision will leave over 11,000 refugees and asylum seekers homeless.

Earlier this year, the Greek Ministry of Citizen Protection issued a decision to evacuate all buildings housing migrant residents who have received visas or subsidiary protection cards in Greece since 2017.

The Ministry said the eviction should be carried out no later than April 2020.

Activists said the move dovetails the country's attempt to rein in the influx of migrants and overcrowdings on its islands.

The activists further warned of the fallouts of the decision, which they said will result in increasing numbers of homeless refugees who will be left with neither food nor shelter and be denied their basic human rights.

Palestinian refugees who have fled war-stricken zones to Greece have been denied their rights to visas and prevented from accessing vital facilities.

In the meantime, Turkey's Coast Guard Command rescued 42 asylum-seekers late Thursday from a boat pushed back by Greece's Hellenic Coast Guard.

Acting on a tip, Turkish rescue teams were sent to a region in Izmir province's Foça district. The asylum-seekers were found on a rubber boat and were disembarked.



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Turkey and Greece have been key transit points for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants seeking to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution.

Turkey earlier this year opened its gates for irregular migrants wanting to cross to Europe, accusing the European Union of failing to keep its promises under a 2016 migrant deal.

Greece's response to those trying to enter the country without prior authorization has been harsh, with at least three migrants having been killed by Greek security forces along the land border with Turkey. Many others have been battered and teargassed.

Human Rights Watch urged Greece and the EU to respect human rights in light of Turkey's new policy of refusing to halt migrants and refugees trying to leave for Greece.

Ankara already hosts over 3.5 million Syrian migrants, more than any other country in the world, and says it cannot handle another wave.

So far this year, Turkey's Coast Guard Command has rescued hundreds of migrants and asylum-seekers off the Aegean coast after they were forced by Greece into Turkish territorial waters.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Thursday voiced alarm over reports of pushbacks and collective expulsions of migrants, in some cases violent, from Greece.