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## التقرير اليومي



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

### Following Death of 6 Migrants at Sea, EU Urge Greece to Launch Immediate Probe

- Agricultural Crops Damaged in Neirab Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- Property-Theft Reported in Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria
- Displaced Families Called On to Continue to Return to Yarmouk Camp



## **Latest Developments**

The Office of the Spokesperson for the European Commission has called on the Greek authorities to open an investigation into the deaths of six migrants (five children and a woman) in the Aegean Sea, after the Greek coast guard pushed them into the territorial waters.

The spokesman stressed the need to take all necessary measures to prevent such disasters as reported by Ankara.

The European office called on member states and parties involved in search and rescue operations to pool resources and comply with the laws related to the rescue of all migrants at sea.

The office said the European Commission is expecting Greek authorities to open an urgent investigation to uncover the facts, follow up on errors and investigate the accusations leveled against them, after the Greek Coast Guard pushed back dozens of migrants who set sail from Lebanon on a wooden boat after it ran out of fuel.

Over recent years, many international human rights organizations have accused the Greek coast guard of mistreating the refugees and illegally pushing them back to Turkey.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands have made short but perilous journeys across the Aegean to reach Northern and Western Europe in search of a better life.

Hundreds of people have died at sea as many boats carrying refugees often sink or capsize. The Turkish Coast Guard Command has rescued thousands of others.

Turkey and Greece are key transit points for migrants looking to cross into Europe, fleeing war and persecution to start new lives. Turkey has accused Greece of large-scale pushbacks, summary deportations and denying migrants access to asylum procedures, which is a violation of international law. Ankara also accuses the EU of turning a blind eye to this blatant abuse of human rights.

Pushbacks are considered contrary to international refugee protection agreements that say people should not be expelled or returned to a country where their life or safety might be in danger



due to their race, religion, nationality or membership of a social or political group.

In another development, Jiwan Mustafa, the Syrian Health Board co-chair, stated that there were 2,867 suspected cholera cases, 78 confirmed cases, and 16 deaths across NES to date, mostly in Deir ez-Zor.

Mustafa confirmed the presence of 'Vibrio cholerae', the bacteria which causes the cholera illness, in the Euphrates River. He stated that if the situation turns into a pandemic, the Health Board does not have the ability to manage alone.

A key reason for the spread of the disease is that many people drink untreated water directly from the Euphrates, into which raw sewage is dumped, as well as use this water for agriculture, because there are no other options available, with insufficient water filtering stations.

A recent REACH report stated that 69% of communities in NES lack sufficient access to water, whilst 38% experience issues with the quality/safety of their drinking water.

Furthermore, it is reported that prior to the cholera outbreak, Deir ez-Zor local authorities had stopped distributing chlorine to water pumping stations, but AANES claim they have now resumed distribution.

This situation is compounded in IDP camps. If water is delivered in trucks from tankers, it is expensive, and even then, it often comes directly from the Euphrates without filtering or sterilization.

Reportedly, the 270 IDP families living in al-Younani camp (Raqqqa) were recently forced to drink visibly dirty river water after the main water station in Raqqqa paused operations for maintenance works for 2 days, and when supply resumed to the city, pumping of water was irregular.

In Aleppo, the Syrian government's Directorate of Agriculture ordered 165 acres of cultivated crop land to be destroyed, after samples taken from irrigation water showed the presence of cholera, to prevent the disease spreading. So far, AANES has not announced such measures.





In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced the ongoing property-theft and burglary across residential neighborhoods.

Over recent days, a five-member gang burglarized a civilian home in the area.

Over recent months, power cables have been stolen from abandoned houses and alleyways in Khan Eshieh Camp refugee camp, where civilians' life has already been marred by the frequent power blackouts.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The Khan historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.

Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.