



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"UN Data: Number of Palestinian Refugees Fleeing War-Ravaged Syria to Lebanon Goes Down"

- **Palestinian Refugees with Special Needs Facing High Marginalization in Syria**
- **PLA Involved in Pro-Government Battles in Northern Syria**
- **Palestinian Refugees Deeply Concerned over Their Ambivalent Fate as Greece Changes Its Mind on Migrant Detention Centers**

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Latest Developments

The number of Palestinian refugees from war-torn Syria has seen a sharp decrease in the Lebanese territories, UN and human rights bodies have documented.

In August and September 2019, UNRWA conducted a verification exercise of PRS in Lebanon and verified the physical presence of 27,803 PRS in the country, with a remarkable decrease from previous years.

The number of PRS in Lebanon has been gradually decreasing over the past two years, and UNRWA estimates that in 2020 the country will continue to host approximately 27,700 PRS (8,450 families).



UNRWA data estimated that until December 2016 as many as 31,850 Palestinian refugees had sought shelter in Lebanon, down from 28,598 in 2019.

In recent reports, AGPS said the number of Palestinians who fled war-torn Syria to Lebanon has dramatically shrunk back over the past few years.

The decrease has been attributed to the mistreatment and crackdowns perpetrated against the refugees in the Lebanese territories, where they have also been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, relief assistance, free education and healthcare, and access to the local labor market.



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A decision issued by the Lebanese authorities in early May 2014 denied the Palestinians of Syria the right to freely enter the Lebanese territories, in an attempt to rein in refugee influx from Syria.

Along similar lines, displaced Palestinian refugees with special needs have been gripped with dire conditions in camps and communities across the Syrian territories.

The situation of dozens of children with disabilities has gone far worse after they lost their parents in the bloody warfare. Others have endured limb amputation owing to the violent onslaughts.



UNRWA said it assists more than 2,300 Palestine refugees with disabilities in Syria, who have had their lives marred by the unabated warfare and bloody strife.

Assistance to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees, including persons with disabilities, is provided by donors like the European Union. The European Commission's civil protection and humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has funded assistance to those with disabilities, as well as female-headed households.

In another development, the Palestine Liberation Army in Syria said it has been fighting alongside the Syrian government forces in Aleppo and Idlib, in northern Syria.

A live footage broadcast by Liwaa AlQuds brigade, also affiliated with the Syrian government, showed PLA fighters as being engaged in shootouts in



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AlZahraa region, in Aleppo. A PLA officer called Ali Jumuaa and who appears in the footage confirmed the group's military involvement in the raging warfare.

AGPS found out that 278 Palestinian refugees fighting alongside PLA forces were pronounced dead since the outbreak of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Sometime earlier, the PLA's Chief of Staff, Major General Tareq AlKhadra, said nearly 6,000 conscripts have been fighting alongside PLA at over 15 sites across war-ravaged Syria.

Scores of Palestinian youths have been forced to join pro-government battalions in Syria. Those who refuse forced conscription are often subjected to manhunt and imprisonment. Thousands of young men have fled the country in the hunt for a safer shelter.

Meanwhile, Greece has halted plans to construct new detention centers on outlying islands facing Turkey amid mounting opposition from resident communities who fear they will become permanent.

The centre-right administration announced it would extend talks with regional authorities about replacing "anarchic" open-air camps with closed facilities on the Aegean outposts.

"We will put the requisitions on hold," the minister for migration affairs, Notis Mitarachi, said on Monday, referring to a government order to appropriate land for the camps. "We will go on talking until Friday this week [with the aim] of coming to a solution."

Athens hopes the new installations will help ameliorate an increasingly chaotic situation on Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos, where overcrowding in camps has been exacerbated in recent months by a fresh influx of refugees and migrants determined to reach Europe from Turkey. More than 42,000 people are now crammed into camps designed to accommodate 5,400.



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“We have asked for €260m in additional EU funding to create the new centres on the islands,” Mitarachi told the Guardian. “There will be five camps – one in Mytilene, one in Samos, one in Chios, one in Leros and one in Kos. The islands asked for emergency measures and this is an emergency measure.”

Five years after the immigration crisis erupted, the latest surge in arrivals has pitted communities on the frontline against policymakers in the capital.

Following its decision to sequester land for the proposed camps, the government has faced protests, roadblocks and threats of legal action from the island communities. On Lesbos, the gateway for close to a million displaced refugees at the height of the Syrian civil war, residents pledged to stop bulldozers beginning construction work.

Not since March 2016, when the EU struck a landmark accord with Turkey to curb arrivals, have migratory flows been as high as at present. In Lesbos, close to 21,000 migrants, including Palestinian refugees, are staying in Moria, a holding facility regarded as the worst refugee camp in the world.

On any given day hundreds more people reach the entry points in rickety boats chartered by smugglers. Under the EU-Turkey deal, asylum seekers are duty-bound to remain on the islands until their requests are completed. There is a backlog of 90,000 applications.

