



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



"Palestinians from Syria in Egypt Subjected to Precarious Humanitarian Situation"

- Palestinian Infant in Lebanon in Need of Urgent Treatment
- 2 More COVID-19 Infections Reported among Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Sweden
- Palestinian Refugees Protest UNRWA Apathy
- Violent Clashes Erupt on Greek Migrant Camp

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria (PRS) have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

PRS in Egypt have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.

The refugees continue to denounce the apathy maintained by the UN Human Rights Council for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Palestine Embassy regarding their cries for help.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has also turned its back on the Palestinian refugees in Egypt on account that they fall outside of its five fields of operations.

The situation is even worse for those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders. They have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities.



Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees fleeing the war-torn country are left on their own.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in previous years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of PRS in Egypt to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and in-kind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

The situation of the Palestinians of Syria is taking a turn for the worse amid COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown imposed by the Egyptian government to curb virus infections.

Along similar lines, the family of Palestinian newborn from Syria Yousef AlShehab has launched calls for securing urgently-needed surgery fees at Labib Hospital in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

The family said they have managed to secure 1,650 USD of the surgery fees, estimated at 2,900 USD and are still in need of 1,250 USD.

Yousef, aged just one month, has undergone two surgeries and needs a third one. He is currently hospitalized.

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-



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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.

In another development, two more Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been infected with COVID-19 in Sweden, according to Sunday reports.

An AGPS news correspondent said another two PRS, identified as a man and a woman displaced from Yarmouk Camp, tested positive for coronavirus in Malmo.

The new infections bring the number of PRS who contracted COVID-19 in Europe to 10, including eight refugees who are being treated in Sweden and another who is hospitalized in Germany.

On March 29, Palestinian refugee from Syria Hasan Tershahni, aged 72, succumbed to coronavirus in the Netherlands.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said in its daily report of the coronavirus (COVID-19) among Palestinian



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expatriates abroad that the number of coronavirus cases among diaspora Palestinians has hit 830.

It said the number of recoveries among Palestinian expatriates reached 209, while deaths stood at 39.

In the United States, 14 new cases were reported in the states of Michigan, Ohio, and New Jersey, bringing the total of cases in the country to 575. The number of deaths stood at 29.

Meanwhile, Palestinian activists in the besieged Gaza Strip said a vigil is slated to be maintained outside of the office of the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to push for urgent responses to the cries for help launched by Palestinian refugees who returned to the enclave after they fled war-ragged Syria.

Palestinian refugees from Syria who returned to the blockaded Gaza Strip have been facing an abject humanitarian situation in the Israeli-blockaded enclave.

The refugees said their situation has taken a tragic turn for the worse due to UNRWA's suspension of its cash assistance. They have also been deprived of relief aids provided by other charities due to the registration of their names by the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah on the employees' list.

Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been enduring dire living conditions due to the 12-year-long Israeli siege and the devastating upshots of the Israeli onslaughts on the coastal enclave.

Civilians continue to launch cries for help over the high rates of unemployment, lack of financial resources, and movement



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

crackdowns, which they said have made life quite unbearable in Gaza.

The offensives launched by the Israeli military on Gaza have turned the enclave into a hell on earth as most families have lost their sources of incomes, homes, and property.

Last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern over the alarming situation in the besieged Gaza Strip in light of the propagation of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Guterres said urgent action should be made to help Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip counter the deadly virus.



"There are dramatic humanitarian needs for these people even without this pandemic", he said. "It is very difficult for these people to be living in self-isolation. There, households often don't have water, no soap, and healthcare facilities are extremely rudimentary. So we need to boost the response capacity in those areas".

The concerns coincided with calls launched by human rights groups in the Gaza Strip urging the Israeli occupation authorities to allow the entry of medical supplies needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic into the besieged territory.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيين سورية
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According to data by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas, with more than 5,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. The Gaza Strip is smaller than the city of Oslo but is home to three times as many people.

A 2012 UN report predicted the Palestinian enclave would be “unlivable” by 2020 if nothing was done to ease the blockade, but in June 2017 a UN report on living conditions in Gaza stated that all the indicators were going in the wrong direction and that deadline was actually approaching even faster than earlier predicted.

Gaza is described by many Palestinians and humanitarian actors as the world’s largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million Palestinians live behind a blockade and are refused access to the other occupied Palestinian areas and the rest of the world.

NRC said 7 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are registered as refugees, and many of these come from families who were forced to leave their villages in 1948. Many have also been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence, and economic hardship.

In the meantime, a fire has torn through one of Greece's largest refugee camps on Chios island, causing widespread damage and rendering up to hundreds of people homeless.

The blaze started following a protest over the death of a 47-year-old Iraqi asylum seeker who was cleared of having the coronavirus. But many residents at the overcrowded camp still believed she died of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

The blaze late on Saturday at Vial camp destroyed the facilities of the European asylum service, a camp canteen, warehouse tents and



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many housing containers, Migration Ministry Secretary Manos Logothetis told the AFP news agency.

"A large part of the camp's administrative services was destroyed," said Logothetis, adding that no injuries were reported.

The UN refugee agency's spokesperson in Athens, Boris Cheshirkov, said the damage was still being evaluated but that many camp residents have likely been left homeless.

"Authorities are still assessing the damage but a few hundred people are likely affected because their shelters have burned down. We have donated tents to the authorities which can quickly be put into use and we will assist in replacing the warehouse tents," he told the AFP.

Camps in Greece have been under quarantine in recent weeks, with authorities trying to keep residents apart from locals.



The virus has so far killed 110 people in Greece. Another 67 are in intensive care.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.



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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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

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