



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

21-03-2021

No. 3167

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



**"On Mother's Day...Palestinian Refugee Women in Syria Facing Multiple Hardships"**

- Palestinian Women in Syria's AlHusainiya Camp Denied Their Basic Rights
- Fires Break Out at Palestinian Refugee House in Aleppo
- Deaths Reported as Greek Coast Guard Push Back 7 Migrants into Aegean Coast
- 8 Countries Deemed by Swedish Migration Authorities to Be Safe Destinations



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## Latest Developments

AGPS has documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian women and the enforced disappearance of several others in the embattled Syrian territories.

Data released by AGPS on the International Mother's Day indicates that as many as 487 Palestinian women and girls have died of war-related incidents since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict.

Palestinian refugee women who died all the way through Syria's ten-year conflict make up 16% of the overall death toll.

At the same time, AGPS has documented the secret detention of 110 Palestinian women and girls in Syria's government prisons. AGPS believes the numbers to be far higher as scores of casualties have gone undocumented after the Syrian authorities kept their names secret. Several families have also refused to reveal their relatives' names over retaliation concerns.

According to affidavits by ex-detainees, Palestinian women and girls have been subjected to harsh psycho-physical torture tactics in Syrian penitentiaries, including electric shocks, heavy beating using iron sticks, and sexual abuse.

Such practices represent flagrant violations of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of 1974, Article 5, which criminalizes all forms of torture and mistreatment against women and children.



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Several women have also gone homeless or widowed after they lost their husbands and/or children in the war or due to torture.

Thousands of other women have been displaced from such refugee camps as Yarmouk and Khan Eshieh to northern Syria, where they have been struggling for survival in the impoverished refugee tents.

Inherently a taboo misdemeanor in the MENA region, violence against women, be it sexual, physical, or verbal, has remained under-reported among the Palestinian refugee community in Syria, with reasons wavering between fear of retaliation, embarrassment, fear of punishment for those below the age of criminal responsibility, and distrust in law enforcement.

Along similar lines, women in AlHusainiya Camp for Palestinian refugees have been denied their basic rights. Many of them have lost their children and/or husbands as a result of war-related incidents. Several others have been forcibly disappeared.

Palestinian refugee women have also been deprived of healthcare services. The nearest public hospital is located at a distance of over 25 kilometers from the camp. Women continue to denounce the mistreatment they have been subjected to at UNRWA-run clinics.

Several women have also been the sole breadwinners of their female-headed households. Many of them have been in debt.

In another development, fires broke out overnight on Saturday at the house of Palestinian refugee Marwan Mohamed Azzam, in AlFurkan, west of Aleppo city, resulting in heavy material damage.



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The fires were caused by a short circuit.

Meanwhile, at least three people died and one more is missing after the Greek Coast Guard dumped a group of asylum-seekers into the Aegean Sea, Turkish authorities said Friday.

The Turkish Coast Guard managed to rescue two asylum-seekers from Boğaz Island, located off the coast of Izmir, and two more from the surrounding waters, according to a statement by the governor's office.

The bodies of two more people were also recovered, the statement said.

The third person to die was one of the two saved from the water, who passed away at a hospital, it added.

"According to the asylum-seekers' initial statements, Greek officials seized their belongings, tied their hands using plastic handcuffs and threw them into the sea without any life raft or boat," read the statement.

Later, Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu posted a video on Twitter showing scenes of the rescue and the asylum seekers in hospital.

One of them is seen with zip tie handcuffs on his wrists, while Muhammad, another asylum seeker, tells about the incident.

Saying that they went to the Greek island of Chios and stayed there for two days, he explained: "Then they took our cellphones and money and beat us up."





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"There were seven of us ... and now there are three, I don't know where the other four are," he said, adding that he saw one person dead.

In 2015, at the height of the crisis, 856,000 crossed the Aegean Sea. This figure dropped to 173,000 the next year and to only 30,000 in 2017. In 2020, likely because of the coronavirus pandemic, just 10,000 crossed.

Turkey has accused Greece of large-scale pushbacks and summary deportations without access to asylum procedures, which is a violation of international law. It also accuses the European Union of turning a blind eye to what it says is a blatant abuse of human rights.

Pushbacks are considered contrary to international refugee protection agreements that say people shouldn't be expelled or returned to a country where their life or safety might be in danger due to their race, religion, nationality or membership in a social or political group.

Such actions prevent asylum-seekers from making claims for refugee status and if practiced indiscriminately against a group of migrants it can constitute refoulement – a violation of EU human rights laws and the 1951 Geneva Convention.

On March 3, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that Greece's practice of pushing irregular migrants back to Turkey amounts to a clear violation of the 1951 Refugee Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights and European Union law.



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Meanwhile, the Swedish Migration Agency set a list of eight safe destinations to which asylum seekers will be returned.

The destinations are Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Chile, Kosovo, Mongolia, Macedonia, Serbia, and the United States.

No Middle Eastern or Arab countries have been included on the list.

Official Swedish statistics indicated that 3,296 Palestinian asylum-seekers categorized as “stateless” received citizenship documents in Sweden in 2019.

Over the past few years, thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees, among other migrants, who have applied for asylum in Sweden have been granted two-year visas.

Eligibility criteria set by the Swedish authorities include a well-paid work contract valid for a minimum of two years and which enters into force before the expiration of the temporary visa. The employer should submit a recruitment declaration at the Swedish tax authority, taking into consideration the conditions defined by the national trade unions.