



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



"Brother of Disabled Palestinian Refugee Launches Cry for Help"

- Sterilization Campaign Held in Deir Ballout Refugee Camp
- Accredited Bakeries Manage Bread Distribution in Khan Dannun Refugee Camp
- Tension Soars as Greece Decides to Close Off Migrant Camps

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Latest Developments

The brother of the wheel-chaired Palestinian refugee Ibrahim Samadi has sounded distress signals over the abject situation they have been facing in Turkey.

Ammar said his brother Ibrahim can no longer stand on his own feet after he was hit in a traffic accident several years ago.

Ammar himself is currently held at a clinic in Istanbul after he fell from the house balcony on March 14. He has gone hemiplegic.

Ibrahim and Ammar have no other relatives in Turkey to look after them. Ammar can no longer provide for himself or his brother.



Ammar also said treatment fees far outlive his cash-stripped budget.

Palestinian activists have appealed to the German Embassy and Palestinian Embassy in Turkey along with the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Conference of Palestinians in Turkey, the Turkish Association to Support Palestine (FIDAR), and the International Red Cross to take serious and urgent action regarding the brothers' cries for help and to work on reuniting them with their mother who has been in Germany for five years.



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In another development, volunteers from Mulhem Group embarked on March 23 on a campaign to sterilize parts of Deir Ballout refugee camp, in the northern Syrian region of Efrin, in an attempt to limit a propagation of coronavirus (COVID-19) among the residents.

A paramedic at the local clinic in the camp said efforts have been underway to distribute awareness-raising leaflets and pass on precautionary instructions to the residents.



Hundreds of Palestinian and Syrian families who have been forcibly deported to northern Syria have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation as most of them have been taking cover in underequipped tents that risk to fall into pieces. High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

Along similar lines, bread loafs have been distributed in Khan Dannun camp for Palestinian refugees through accredited bakeries in order to prevent long queues and over-crowding.

Over recent years, residents of Khan Dannun camp have spoken out against the poor-quality bread sold in the area, saying it is unfit for



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human consumption and holding the government's quality control staff responsible for the crisis.

Living conditions in Khan Dannun have sharply deteriorated due to the lack of financial resources and high unemployment rates wrought by the raging warfare. A transportation crisis has added bad to worse.

After eight years of conflict, Palestine refugees continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Syria with immense humanitarian needs.

In the meantime, Greece has said it is placing migrant camps across the country on a two-week shutdown to visitors to ward off the new coronavirus.

“Visits (to camps) by individuals and organizations are suspended for at least 14 days,” the migration ministry said in a statement last week.

“Entry will be allowed only to staff and there will be a compulsory temperature check for new arrivals,” it said, adding that residents would be encouraged to limit their movements in and out of the camps.

Greece has progressively tightened restrictions on trade and public gatherings, and the national death toll from the virus now stands at five with 387 cases.

There are tens of thousands of asylum seekers in camps on the Greek mainland and islands near Turkey, and most of them are badly overcrowded.



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Hundreds more arrived this month after Turkey announced it would no longer stop people from attempting to reach the EU — going against a deal reached with the bloc in 2016 — leading to days of chaos at the Greek border.

In a statement to mark four years since the deal, the Greek Council for Refugees and Oxfam said “suffering has reached unimaginable levels”.

“Nothing can justify the indiscriminate detention of people seeking asylum, and Greece should not deny them a safe place during the current health crisis, nor send them back to situations where their lives and freedom are at risk,” they said in a joint statement.

Oxfam migration expert Raphael Shilhav said: “While the coronavirus COVID-19 crisis is creating many uncertainties about the future, it is crucial that governments continue to protect the most vulnerable and keep to their promise to offer children safe conditions at this time.”

A number of migrants have told Turkish authorities and rights groups that they were stripped and beaten by armed men on the Greek side of the border.

Athens has consistently denied using undue force in guarding its borders.

Human Rights Watch said it had spoken to 21 asylum seekers who told the group: “Greek security forces and unidentified armed men (had) detained, assaulted, sexually assaulted, robbed, and stripped asylum seekers and migrants, then forced them back to Turkey.”



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The group also criticized a decision by Athens to suspend new asylum applications until April and summarily deport those arriving in this month's surge.

