



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

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Officials Meet over Exacerbated Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Cyprus"

- 3 Feared Dead in Greece Migrant Boat Crash
- Palestinian Refugee from Syria Released from Turkish Custody
- Palestinians Raise Concerned over Forced Deportation from Istanbul
- Red Crescent Distributes Wood Planks in Handarat Refugee Camp

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## Latest Developments

Palestine Envoy to Cyprus, Ambassador Jabran Tawil, discussed with Kyriakos Kouros, Director of the Cyprus President's Diplomatic Office, the situation of Palestinian refugees in Cyprus.

Mr. Tawil underscored the need to set a relief mechanism to assist Palestinian refugees in Cyprus. The Cyprian official vowed to reach out to the concerned authorities to that end.



Some 300 Palestinian refugees from Syria in Cyprus, along with other Palestinian refugees and migrants from Iraq and Lebanon, have been facing dire humanitarian conditions in Cyprus due to the absence of relief assistance and lack of access to the labor market in a country where 23.9% of the population are at risk of poverty and social marginalization.

Along the same line, a Greek coast guard patrol boat collided with a dinghy carrying migrants to the island of Kos from Turkey on Wednesday, leaving a child dead and another person missing, authorities said.



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Officials on Kos said that 31 people were rescued following the collision, in an effort assisted by private boats and the European Union border protection agency Frontex. The circumstances of the collision were not immediately clear.

The crash occurred before sunrise Wednesday in the heavily patrolled waters of the east Aegean Sea.

“The search effort is focused on locating a missing 26-year-old Syrian man,” coast guard spokesman Nikos Lagadianos said. “The collision happened in total darkness ... they are trying to make the crossing undetected and the dinghies are usually overloaded with people. It is sometimes very difficult to detect those boats even for vessels equipped with radar.”

According to AGPS data, Greek islands have seen a surge in recent months of refugees and migrants traveling in boats to the Greek islands to try and eventually reach EU countries.

Dozens of Palestine refugees who fled the relentless Syrian warfare to remote Greek islands have been crammed in refugee camps that have reportedly been running at three times their capacity. Overpopulated refugee camps cause a shortage of resources, not least healthcare.

Last month month, UNICEF warned that the number of unaccompanied migrant minors staying in overcrowded reception centers on the Greek islands exceeds 1,100, the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis in early 2016, calling on European countries to do more to protect vulnerable children.



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Tens of thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees have flooded across the Mediterranean and into Greece over the past few years, counting on being relocated elsewhere in Europe as part of an E.U. plan to redistribute the asylum seekers to lighten the burden on the countries at the front lines of Europe's migrant crisis.

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

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

In another development, the Turkish police released Palestinian refugee from Syria Emad Abu Zeid, born in 1967, after he had been kept in custody for over 15 days in Izmir province.

Palestinian refugee from Syria Emad Ahmad AlSaadani, born in 1995, has, however, been held in a Turkish detention center for over 15 days.

Over recent days, activists have urged the Turkish authorities to release the two Palestinian refugees after they were arrested by Turkish security forces in Izmir province for illegally entering Turkey from Syria. Both refugees, residents of Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus, failed to obtain the temporary protection card "kimlik". The arrestees were taken to a migration detention center pending their deportation to northern Syria.

Activists and refugees' families have appealed to the Palestinian Authority, Palestine Embassy, and all other concerned bodies to



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urge the Turkish authorities to backtrack on their crackdowns on Palestinians from Syria and provide them with the physical and legal protection they quite urgently need.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 8,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.

Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Istanbul have voiced deep concern over the intent of the Turkish authorities to forcibly send them back to Syria as many of them overstayed their visas.

Turkish police have notified irregular migrants to leave the country by the end of October.





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Fears of forced deportation have heightened following a visit paid by Istanbul mayor to Esenyurt district and the instructions he has given for pushing back Syrian and Palestinian migrants by October 29.

The Turkish authorities reportedly sent some 36,000 irregular migrants to removal centers established by the Interior Ministry since July 12. Another 5,700 unregistered Syrian migrants were also transferred to a shelter in Kilis province.

Hundreds of Palestinian families from Syria continue to appeal to the Turkish authorities and Palestinian embassies to work out their legal status and grant them humanitarian asylum.

Recently, Turkish police stepped down crackdowns and abduction sweeps targeting irregular migrants and non-holders of the kimlik visa card in Istanbul.

Nearly 2,400 Palestinian families from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, including 1,200 families in Istanbul, where they have been facing an abject situation.

Khayra Ummah organization estimated that 400 Palestinian families from Syria without kimlik visas have been taking refuge in Turkey, including 300 families in Istanbul.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Red Crescent Society handed over wood planks to some 40 families who returned to Handarat Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Aleppo.

The move aims at providing protection and preserving privacy to families taking shelter in the camp.



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Activists and civilians sheltered in Handarat Camp, in Aleppo, have been appealing to all concerned parties to work on reconstructing civilian homes and facilities that have been reduced to rubble all the way through Syria's eight-year conflict.

Left without roofs over their heads, a number of families have been striving to reconstruct the destroyed walls of their homes in order to provide their homeless children with safer shelters.

Palestinian refugees have also been grappling with dire conditions due to the lack of humanitarian assistance and life-saving services. The majority of families have been taking shelter in buildings rented at extremely steep costs in the poverty-stricken area. A severe water and power crisis also continues to rock the camp.

Heavy shelling on Handarat and bloody shootouts between the government forces and the opposition outfits led to the destruction of over 90% of buildings in the camp. The confrontations culminated in the government's takeover of the camp along with other zones in Aleppo and the displacement of its residents on April 27, 2013.



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Handarat Camp (also called Ein AlTel Camp) is located to the northeast of Aleppo's Hill, overseeing the Turkey-bound traffic lanes. It stands on a rocky hill and is situated some 13 kilometers away from the city center.

According to data by the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees in Syria, some 8,000 Palestinian refugees used to take shelter in Handarat Camp. Only 200 displaced families returned to the camp following the heavy onslaughts launched by the Syrian government battalions.