



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



"Khan Eshieh Camp Left without Water for 10th Day"

- UNRWA in Syria Delays Aid Delivery for Palestinian Refugees
- Anti-Coronavirus Drives Held by Palestinian Refugee Communities in Syria
- Clashes Burst Out Between Palestinian and African Migrants on Over-Crowded Greek Island

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Latest Developments

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp, in Rif Dimashq, said water has been cut off across residential neighborhoods for ten days running.

The residents warned of the repercussions of the water crisis on their children's health condition in light of the global propagation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An AGPS reporter said most of the families sheltered in the camp are cash-stripped and cannot afford to buy drinking water from privately-owned tanks.



Palestinian families continue to appeal to UNRWA and the concerned authorities to take urgent action regarding the alarming humanitarian condition in the camp.

In another development, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has announced its intent to change the time and location of aid distribution for Palestinian refugees.



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In text messages sent to the refugees, UNRWA attributed the delay in aid delivery to bank closures maintained as part of precautionary measures against COVID-19 outbreaks.

The UN Agency said it will send new messages to the registered families specifying the time and place of cash transfer.

Meanwhile, awareness-raising campaigns and sterilization moves have been held across Palestinian refugee camps and communities in and around Damascus to help civilians combat the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Reporting from Damascus, an AGPS news correspondent said vehicles loaded with sterilization equipment have been spotted spraying disinfectants across residential alleyways and local stores.

Similar drives have been held in Khan Eshieh, Khan Dannun, Jaramana, and AlSayeda Zeinab displacement camps.



At the same time, Palestinian volunteers have embarked on a campaign to sterilize homes in AlWafideen and AlRamadan refugee camps, in Rif Dimashq. The police station, groceries, and public transportation vehicles were also disinfected.



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Meanwhile, clashes have flared up again on the Greek island of Kos as authorities there try to stem the flow of migrants pouring from borderlands.

Sharp weapons were reportedly used in fighting that burst out between African and Palestinian migrants.

Activists held the Greek authorities responsible for the mounting tension in overcrowded migrant facilities, saying refugees have been psychologically distressed due to the substandard living conditions they have been made to endure in reception centers and the absence of life-saving healthcare services at a time when reports of coronavirus cases have soared.

An AGPS reporter said the migrants, including over 200 Palestinian refugees from Syria, have been subjected to dire conditions on the island and deprived of their basic human rights, including access to water, power, and relief services.

Recently, human rights groups have warned that Greek police have been using tear gas, water cannon, and stun grenades to push back the border crossers. Turkey has accused Greek forces of shooting and killing at least four migrants – a charge Greece denies.

Greek authorities have made no secret of their resolve and even their use of aggressive tactics to block illegal crossings. But the government in Athens is denying accusations of deadly attacks on migrants.

In a March 17 report, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Greek security forces and unidentified armed men at the Greece-Turkey land border have detained, assaulted, sexually assaulted, robbed,



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and stripped asylum seekers and migrants, then forced them back to Turkey.

“The European Union is hiding behind a shield of Greek security force abuse instead of helping Greece protect asylum seekers and relocate them safely throughout the EU,” said Nadia Hardman, refugee rights researcher and advocate at Human Rights Watch. “The EU should protect people in need rather than support forces who beat, rob, strip, and dump asylum seekers and migrants back across the river.”



Between March 7 and 9, Human Rights Watch interviewed 21 asylum seekers and migrants, 17 of whom were men and 4 women, in Turkey about how they tried to enter Greece over the land border following the Turkish government’s February 27 announcement that it would no longer stop asylum seekers and migrants from leaving Turkey to reach the European Union.

All those interviewed said that within hours after they crossed in boats or waded through the river, armed men wearing various law enforcement uniforms or in civilian clothes, including all in black with balaclavas, intercepted everyone in their group. All said the



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men detained them in official or informal detention centers, or on the roadside, and stole their money, mobile phones, and bags before summarily pushing them back to Turkey.

Seventeen interviewees also described how the men assaulted them and others, including women and children, through electric shocks, beating with wooden or metal rods, prolonged beating of the soles of feet, punching, kicking, and stomping.