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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

UN: Situation of Palestinian Refugees Alarming

- Greece to Extend Border Fence with Turkey
- 92 Irregular Immigrants Caught in Fethiye
- UNRWA to Deliver Cash Aid to Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon



Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees are struggling for survival and need urgent humanitarian action, warned the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Addressing the UN Security Council, Philippe Lazzarini said: “Since I last briefed this Council in May last year, the situation of Palestine refugees has further deteriorated.”

“Over 80 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza live below the poverty line”, said Lazzarini.

“In Gaza, the escalation of violence earlier this month was a stark reminder that war and violence can erupt anytime in the absence of a genuine and comprehensive effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict”, he said. “Sixty Palestine refugee families lost their homes. Seventeen children were killed. Eight were students in UNRWA schools”.

Lazzarini also warned that “nearly half of UNRWA students suffer from trauma and need special assistance to cope with the repeated cycles of violence and the economic hardship that their families live in”.

“In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, political, economic and security conditions are deteriorating as Palestine refugees experience high levels of dispossession, violence and insecurity”, he said.

“In Syria, after 11 years of conflict, the most destitute families are returning to live amid the rubble of their destroyed homes as they can no longer afford rent”, Lazzarini told the Security Council.

“Children who returned to demolished camps such as Yarmouk or Ein el Tal walk near unexploded ordnances to take UNRWA buses to school”.

“In Lebanon, the pressure on the Agency to do more to address the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the Palestine refugee community is becoming unbearable”, the statement proceeded.



“In Jordan, the pandemic left deep scars on the labor market. Unemployment is soaring, particularly for females and young people. Child labor and early marriage are reportedly on the rise”, UNRWA chief further stated.

Lazzarni warned that “for the past decade, the chronic underfunding of our program budget has made it increasingly challenging for the Agency to fulfil the mandate given by the General Assembly”.

He warned that “coordinated campaigns to delegitimize UNRWA with a view to erode the rights of Palestine refugees are increasing in frequency and in maliciousness”.

Lazzarini appealed to Member States who have reduced their funding to reconsider the impact of their decision on the region’s stability and to mobilize politically and financially to support UNRWA and continue working towards a political solution that will benefit desperate Palestinian refugees and the region.

In another development, Greece will gradually extend a fence along its border with Turkey and bolster surveillance mechanisms to counter the increasing number of migrants from crossing over, the Greek government said on Tuesday (August 23) following a meeting of the council for foreign affairs and defense.

A government statement said the meeting – held between top immigration, security and military officials and chaired by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis – discussed "the problem of increased pressure for illegal entry, both along the land border and along the sea border" in the eastern Aegean Sea.

Greece has already built a 40-kilometer (25-mile) fence in the area of the Evros River, also known as Maritsa and Meriç, along the northeastern land border. The government plans to extend the fence by 220 kilometers.

Athens also said it would boost its border patrol force with additional boats and aircraft for its coast guard monitoring the eastern Aegean Sea. New electronic monitoring devices are also to be installed.



The announcement comes at a time Greek authorities are reporting rising numbers of migrants crossing its land border along the Evros River.

"It was decided to gradually expand the fence along the whole length of the Evros," with an initial focus on potential problematic locations, Tuesday's statement said. "It was also decided to upgrade and strengthen surveillance systems."

Citizen Protection Minister Takis Theodorikakos told the Ant1 television broadcaster on Wednesday that over 25,000 people have tried to enter "illegally" across the Greek-Turkish border in August so far.

Greece has come under criticism in recent weeks over a group of migrants – mostly Syrians – who said they were stranded for days on an islet in the Evros River. One of the migrants trapped on the islet, a five-year-old Syrian girl, died allegedly after a scorpion sting while she and her family were stranded.

Human rights organizations continue to accuse Athens of supporting illegal pushbacks along both its land and sea borders with Turkey.

Along similar lines, in the operation held in Fethiye district of Muğla, 92 irregular immigrants were caught by the Gendarmerie teams in three minibuses and a car, and five suspects were detained in connection with the incident.

According to the information obtained, a study was initiated upon receiving the information that illegal irregular migrants would be smuggled in Yaniklar Mahallesi Dailyly as a result of intelligence studies carried out in coordination with Muğla Provincial Gendarmerie Command and Antalya Provincial Gendarmerie Command in order to prevent migrant smuggling incidents and to control irregular migration movements.

A total of 92 irregular migrants, 79 from Syria, 10 from Palestine and 3 from Afghanistan, were caught in 3 minibuses and a car, which were stopped by the teams.

It has been learned that the caught irregular migrants will be sent to the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management after their



procedures. HRM, MM, ME, RC and MBM, who were determined to be the organizers, were detained.

In the meantime, UNRWA pledged to transfer cash grants to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The disbursed sum is 25 USD per month. An additional sum of 50 USD covering July and August will also be shelled out to registered refugees.

Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon are grappling with increased hardship and vulnerability, due to long-term displacement and difficult socio-economic conditions, coupled with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to UNRWA, 87% of PRS live in poverty in the Lebanese territories.