



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



“5 Civilians Arrested by Syrian Security Forces Near Yarmouk Refugee Camp”

- 98 Palestinian Refugees Extra-Judicially Executed in War-Torn Syria
- Residents of AlNeirab Camp Denounce Power Over-Billing
- Migrants Assaulted by Greek Coast Guard

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest developments

Five civilians, including a woman, were arrested by the Syrian security forces on their way out of Yarmouk Camp following a visit they paid to their abandoned homes in the area.

Activists said Syrian military patrols set up a makeshift checkpoint near AlBatikha neighborhood, near the main entrance to the camp, and subjected residents passing through the area to intensive search and questioning.

In another development, 98 Palestinian refugees have been subjected to extra-judicial executions since the outburst of Syria's warfare until July 5, 2020, according to AGPS data.

The list includes 17 members of the Palestine Liberation Army who were killed just one month after they were kidnapped in mid-2012 on their way back home to AlNeirab Camp in Aleppo from a military site in Mesyaf.

Daraa Camp topped the list with 25 casualties, followed by Yarmouk Camp, with 19 victims and Aleppo with 18 victims.

Nine Palestinians were, meanwhile, cold-bloodedly executed in ALTadhamun neighborhood in Rif Dimashq, five in AlHusainiya Camp, two in AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, one refugee in AlAyedeen Camp in Hama, and another in Khan Eshieh Camp.

Meanwhile, residents of AlNeirab camp for Palestinian refugees in Aleppo have been struggling to pay their electricity bills due to exorbitant fees. An ampere meter reportedly costs 5,000 Syrian pounds.



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The residents called on the concerned authorities to tune the inflated power bills and reduce hefty fees in light of the squalid humanitarian condition endured by the Palestinian refugee population in displacement camps set up in Syria.

AlNeirab camp is the largest official camp in Syria and is 13km east of the city of Aleppo near the Aleppo airport.

Before the start of the conflict in Syria, Neirab camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. Like other Palestine refugee camps in Syria, a large number of families, young people, have travelled abroad. The camp has also seen a large influx of more than 900 families from the nearby Ein el Tal camp, which has been mostly destroyed.

With nearly 18,000 registered refugees, Neirab camp is among the most densely populated camps. The camp suffers from overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Like other areas in Syria, displacement, unemployment, inflation, protection and security risks are among the main concerns shared by Palestine refugees and Syrians alike.

The location of the camp near the military airport means the area was exposed to hazards including mortars and shelling between the start of 2013 and the end of 2018.

Poor shelters and poor construction of the barracks result in scorching temperatures in summer and freezing conditions in winter. Water leakage and rodent infestation also remain a problem for the refugees.



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In the meantime, Greek coast guard forces are allegedly sabotaging refugees' and migrants' boats on the high seas as part of a strategy to push them back to Turkey, German state broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) reported in a piece published Monday.

"There were five masked men. One was steering, two hit us with sticks, one destroyed our boat and our engine with a knife. The fifth just watched," DW quoted a migrant as saying.

DW also said in the piece that they verified videos provided by an Afghan refugee, codenamed Farhad for his privacy.

"They show the hole in the boat, an engine that has been destroyed, and desperate people, who eventually jump into the water to try to swim toward the shore of Lesbos while pushing the boat. A woman shakes her fist and screams, 'They sent their friends to wreck our boat – now they're watching us.' Indeed, a Greek coast guard vessel is clearly visible in the video," the broadcaster said.

DW also said that the involvement of the Greek coast guard "is hard to prove."

"There are scarcely any photos or videos of the attacks, the masked men do not wear uniforms and their boats are unmarked. That is why the other video, from June 4, is so important," it noted.

"Through painstaking analysis of the superstructure and distinguishing features of the boats, the investigative online platforms Bellingcat and Lighthouse Reports were able to unequivocally match the rigid inflatable to a Hellenic coast guard ship. The inflatable belongs to the Greek coast guard vessel ΛΣ 080



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and this ship has been proven to have been deployed off Lesbos that day,” DW concluded.

The United Nations also demands an investigation regarding the commonplace incidents that see migrants being pushed back to Turkey nearly every day.

“The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is also concerned. Boris Cheshirkov, the spokesman for the refugee agency in Greece, confirmed to DW that, since March, it had documented dozens of incidents like these,” DW said.

“The UNHCR has called on the Greek government to investigate them and has made clear that while ‘Greece has the legitimate right to control its borders and manage irregular migration,’ it must only do so ‘while respecting international human rights and refugee protection standards.’ Hours after Farhad called the emergency hotline on June 5, their boat was still drifting on the water, gradually deflating,” the broadcaster added.

DW also said in the piece that Greek security forces reportedly do not care at all about the safety of the migrants.

“Farhad told us that, instead of coming to their assistance, Greek patrol boats drove past them, very close, trying to make waves that would wash the disabled boat back into Turkish waters,” the broadcaster concluded.

On the very day, the DW report was published, Turkey's coastguard said it rescued 35 migrants from a boat found half sunken in the Aegean Sea and was searching for four more missing people.



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The migrants were rescued around 2:45 a.m. near a small island off the coast of Ayvalık in Turkey's western Balıkesir province, the coastguard said.

Greece has been the main gateway into the European Union for people fleeing conflict in the Middle East and beyond, largely via its islands near the Turkish coast.

Palestinian refugees continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from economic hardship and deadly conflicts in the MENA region. Hundreds of refugees have died onboard Greece-bound ships.