



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



"26 Palestinians among Hundreds of Migrants Pushed Back from Serbia"

- Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Lash Out at UNRWA
- Palestinian Refugees Denounce Bread Dearth South of Syria
- Skin Infections Recorded in Northern Syria Displacement Camps
- Heavy Storm Hits Moria Camp

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Latest Developments

Hundreds of migrants have been targeted in a manhunt launched by Serbian police in Sombor city, northwest of the country.

The sweep culminated in the detention of nearly 700 irregular migrants, including over 26 Palestinians from Syria.

A Palestinian migrant told AGPS that Serbian police forced the migrants into 11 buses before they pushed them back to the Macedonian borders. Police vans escorted the migrants who were placed in a border migrant facility.

In a landmark ruling exclusively seen by DW, Serbia's top court confirmed that Serbian security personnel had illegally deported several asylum-seekers from Serbia over the past few years, instead of issuing proper paperwork and accommodating them in a shelter.

For years, human rights activists have criticized border officers, police and military staff for brutally mistreating migrants along the Balkan route. And for years, authorities in the respective western Balkan states have denied that migrants have been deported in contravention of international law in what have become known as pushbacks. Very few courts have so far ruled on the matter, making the verdict by Serbia's constitutional court a momentous ruling.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees and human rights activists have leveled heavy criticism at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over delays in humanitarian aid delivery.



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Speaking with AGPS, a number of refugees said UNRWA has been using the funding crisis as a clichéd pretext for delayed aid distribution, saying their humanitarian situation in the Middle Eastern country has sharply deteriorated.

The refugees added that UNRWA should have delivered aid dispatched by the European Trust Fund and the World Food Program. They pointed the finger at UNRWA officials whom they said have been benefiting from the deposited sums.

UNRWA has identified PRS in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region.

In its 2020 Syria crisis emergency appeal, UNRWA said that PRS in Lebanon continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on UNRWA humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardship and unrest experienced by the country have compounded PRS' already dire living conditions.

According to a survey conducted by the American University of Beirut in 2015, nearly 90 percent of the PRS population in Lebanon live in poverty, including 9 per cent who are in extreme poverty and unable to meet even their most essential food requirements.

PRS's vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom



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of movement for some PRS in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.

Meanwhile, residents of Deraa camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, spoke out against the acute shortage in bread.

The residents said they have been forced to walk for several kilometers to fetch bread for their starved children as the local bakery has been damaged in the warfare.

Long queues are also spotted daily outside of the state-owned bakery, located a few kilometers away from the camp, as members of extended families continue to line up for bread.

Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees has been grappling with abject conditions as a result of the fallouts of the military operation launched by the Syrian government forces in mid-June 2018 using internationally-prohibited weapons in an attempt to recapture the area. Over 70% of civilian homes and property were destroyed.

An acute shortage in medicines and much-needed items has made life unbearable in the area.

In the meantime, fungal infections, also called mycosis (a skin disease caused by a fungus), have been reported among Palestinians and Syrians taking shelter in Deir Ballout and AlMuhammadiya displacement camps, north of Syria.

Local sources told AGPS that the disease has been contaminated by former detainees who had been incarcerated in the notorious Gindires prison, in Efrin's western outskirts.



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The disease causes irritation, scaly skin, redness, itching, swelling, and blisters.

The residents have called on the concerned authorities and humanitarian organizations to lend them a hand and provide them with medical treatment and medicines.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of winter weather add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.

High rates of unemployment and lack of relief assistance have made the situation far worse for the displaced families.

According to data by the Commission of Palestinians of Syria for Relief and Development, as many as 1,488 Palestinian families have been sheltered in the northern Syrian regions of Idlib, Efrin, and Aleppo's suburbs. The largest number of families are taking refuge in Idlib.

Some 819 Palestinian families have sought shelter in Idlib, including 226 families in the city center, 152 in Atama, 60 in Akrebat village, and 60 more in Sarmada town. 50 families are taking refuge in Maarat AlNu'man and Jericho, south of Idlib, and also in Ataa village.



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In another development, Greece's government continues to come under heavy criticism from all sides after the new "tent city" migrant camp on the island of Lesbos was flooded following days of heavy rainfall across the country.

Apocalyptic scenes of families with small children wading through pools of dirty rainwater and mud, and tents being blown away by stormy weather conditions, have laid bare the fragility of the Moria facility which was hastily built as a temporary measure after a series of fires destroyed the old camp at Moria.

The social media accounts of several NGOs and national newspapers published once more images and videos showing disruption at the site, with many tents completely flooded out and sunken in the mud.

The Moria camp was built to house 3,000 people but at least four times as many people have been living there.

Complicating the resettlement are fears of the coronavirus. Authorities have lost track of 35 camp residents who had tested positive for the virus, Reuters reported. And the displaced refugees have had no access to basic sanitation in the days since the Moria camp burned.

The unsanitary conditions being endured by Moria's former inhabitants in the fields and streets of Lesbos has caused deep alarm.



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Many of the asylum seekers in Moria described life there as being worse than much of what they had endured on their long, often painful journeys towards what they hoped was a better life in Europe.