



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



### "Palestinian Refugee Child in Lebanon in Need of Urgent Treatment"

- **Palestinian Refugee Tortured to Death in Syrian Jail**
- **5 Palestinian Asylum Seekers Brought Before Greek Court**
- **Closure of Syria Schools Extended over Coronavirus Propagation**

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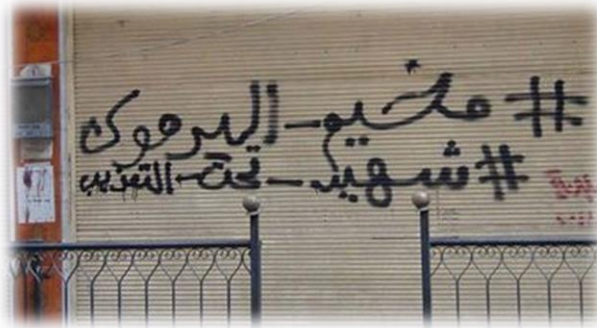
## Victims

Palestinian refugee Fahd AlKhatib, a resident of Yarmouk Camp, died under torture in Syrian government prisons.

Fahd was arrested on June 20, 2013. He reportedly died in September 2013.

AGPS statistics indicate that 620 Palestinian refugees have died under torture in Syria's state-run penal complexes.

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.



Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian prisoners, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of



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those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

### **Latest Developments**

The family of a displaced Palestinian girl from Syria in Lebanon's AlBekaa region has appealed to the national and international humanitarian institutions to help them secure sums of money needed to purchase insulin for their diabetic child.

The 17-year-old girl is diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, which is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. Insulin doses are, therefore, needed to allow sugar (glucose) to enter cells to produce energy.

Her father said she needs 12 insulin pens every single month, a dose that costs up to \$250 per month.





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The UN has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region as they continue to face high marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The majority of the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon live in poverty and are unable to meet even their most essential food requirements. The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their lack of access to healthcare facilities.

In another development, a number of Palestinian refugees were arrested by Greek police before they were put on trial, following a fight that burst out with African migrants on Kos Island.

Human rights activists said five Palestinian asylum-seekers who were detained by the Greek authorities have been brought before court. The refugees reportedly received prison sentences of up to three years and a half.

A Greek policeman was allegedly injured in his head by an unidentified person.

The five Palestinians are: Said Khaled Zaareb, Jihad AlGhoul, Refaat Jawad Ghazal, Yousef Hamed Saker, and Samer Aleiwa.

Activists have reached out to the concerned authorities and attorneys to find out about the real motives behind the case.

Eye-witnesses were quoted as stating that the Palestinian refugees were forced out of their caravans though they posed no threat to the police and did not take part in the fighting.



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Last week, clashes were reported on the Greek island of Kos as authorities there are trying to stem the flow of migrants pouring from borderlands.

Sharp weapons were allegedly 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.



The migrants, including hundreds of Palestinian refugees, 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.



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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, 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 men detained them in official or informal detention centers, or on



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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.

Meanwhile, as part of the Syrian government's anti-coronavirus measures, the Education Ministry decided to extend the closure of the public and private schools and institutes from April 2 to April 16, 2020.

The government also decided to extend the closure of public and private universities and higher institutes till April 16.

In an earlier decision, the Education Ministry had suspended public and private schools from March 14 to April 2, 2020.

Though the Syrian government reported only one case of coronavirus infection throughout the war-ravaged country, there are growing fears that a large outbreak in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria could be particularly catastrophic.

AGPS fears the coronavirus could spread quickly in overcrowded displacement camps, where neither hygiene kit nor medical equipment are accessible.

Though campaigns to help spread awareness among the camps' residents have recently seen the day, limited access to running water, pharmacies and medical facilities mean displacement camps are more susceptible to the spread of the highly infectious virus.



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Displacement camps set up in northern Syria are especially vulnerable as most hospitals and medical facilities have been bombed, rendering them out of order.

A few days earlier, health officials in war-battered Syria have announced the first case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, as authorities in the country halted all public transportation in a bid to curb the spread of the virus.

Health Minister Nizar Yazji told a news conference in the capital Damascus on Sunday that “necessary measures” had been taken to ensure that the patient, a 20-year-old woman who had come from abroad, was quarantined for 14 days.

Earlier, the government shut down schools, parks, restaurants and various public institutions, and called off army conscription.

Syria's healthcare system, among other infrastructure, has been ravaged by nine years of war.