



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



"AGPS Reveals Details of Greece Tragic Boat Accident"

- AGPS Calls for Urgent Assistance to Victims of Greece Boat Tragedy
- European Palestinian Youth Union Calls for Legal Protection of Palestinian Refugees
- Palestinian Refugees Rally outside of UNRWA Office in Sidon

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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Latest Developments

AGPS has received new details about the cause of the fatal boat accident off a Greek coast which claimed the lives of dozens of migrants.

The vessel set sail on Friday morning carrying 88 migrants onboard, more than two times its real capacity. Smugglers are held accountable for the tragic incident as they crammed people onto unseaworthy boats and failing to hand out life vests -- even to underage passengers.

Smugglers are now reportedly seeking to avoid Greek islands near the Turkish coastline, which is heavily being patrolled by the coast guard and the European Union border protection agency, Frontex.

Due to over-capacity, the boat engine went inoperative and waters began to leak into the vessel which capsized just moments later. All migrants onboard, including children, elderly people, and women, fell.

The migrant survivors sounded distress signals and informed the Greek coast guard that their boat sunk off the Aegean coast. Greek coast guards showed up in the scenes hours later.

The number of victims so far has hit 16, among them three women and an infant. Dozens are left unaccounted for.



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The victims are among scores of other Palestinian refugees who risked their lives onboard Europe-bound migrant boats, fleeing war, protracted displacement, and persecution. In the latest incident alone, at least eight Palestinian refugees from Syria died at sea; Rawnd Alayde, from Yarmouk Camp; Dentist Mohamed Kamel Ajaj, 38, a resident of Damascus; Ahmad Yousef Mohamed, born in 1965 and raised in Jaramana Camp; Abdul Karim Ismail; Alaa Abdul Karim Ismail, from AlSayeda Zeinab Camp in Rif Dimashq; Hayan Sawan, from Rukn Adeen in Damascus; Mohamed Abdul Razak Diab, from Jaramana Camp; And Anas AlMisawi, from Deraa Camp.

Greek authorities could have saved the refugees' lives through urgent action. An independent fact-finding probe should be immediately launched to determine the root causes of the boat tragedy and hold those responsible for the migrant deaths to account.

AGPS extends its condolences to the victims' families and calls for a serious follow-up by the United Nations and the international community.

Along similar lines, the European Palestinian Youth Union (YOUTH) has called for providing Palestinian refugees with international legal protection and enhancing their humanitarian conditions in displacement camps.

In a statement issued following the tragic boat accident off a Greek coast which claimed the lives of at least eight Palestinian refugees,



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YOUTH said the migrants breathed their last as they tried to safely reach Greece seeking a dignified life.

YOUTH strongly condemned the “ruthless” smugglers for cramming people onto unseaworthy boats to get money.

The Youth Union urged the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian political factions to provide Palestinian refugees in displacement camps with financial and in-kind aid and to bear their responsibility regarding Palestinians’ refugee plight.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugees and CSOs in Lebanon have rallied outside of UNRWA offices in Sidon to protest the Agency’s decision to reduce cash aid for Palestinian refugee families from Syria (PRS) starting 2022.

The protesters have strongly condemned the decision which they said is a sign of apathy regarding the abject humanitarian condition already endured by the Palestinian refugee community in displacement camps across the Lebanese territories.

They added that the decision is also a serious breach of UNRWA’s humanitarian mission as mandated by the UN and the Agency’s promise to assist Palestinian refugees in its five fields of operation, including Lebanon.

Palestinian refugees have urged UNRWA to work on their unconditional return to their homes from which they have been displaced by the Israeli occupation since 1948.



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A couple of weeks earlier, UNRWA said in a statement that starting 2022, multi-purpose monthly cash grants of 100 USD to every registered Palestinian refugee family from Syria (PRS) will be reduced to 25 USD per person.

The Agency also said every PRS will receive an additional cash grant of 150 USD two times a year. UNRWA will suspend its food allowances for PRS in Lebanon.

The new measures will be put into effect as of January 1, 2022.

Palestinian refugees have expressed their shock at the decision, saying UNRWA cash aid is a lifeline for them.