



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 Palestinian Refugees Die at Sea, 5 Missing on Migration Route in 2020"

- Displaced Palestinian Families Denounce Medical Neglect in Northern Syria
- UNRWA Warns Palestinian Refugees against Bank Account Fraud
- Palestinian Doctor Hayel Hamid Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Prisons for 8th Year

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Latest Developments

In 2020, five Palestinian refugees drowned at sea as they tried to reach European destinations. Five others have gone missing on the migration route.

Two Palestinian refugees from Syria—Yazen Milad Qudsiya, from Handarat refugee camp, and Layth Mohamed, from Jaramana camp—were pronounced dead after they drowned on the perilous journey across the Evros River, near the Turkish-Greek borders.

The Evros region is a major crossing point for refugees and migrants trying to enter the EU from Turkey.

At the same time, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Khaled Dalati and his brother Khaled, raised in Syria's Yarmouk Camp, were pronounced dead after they drowned off the Aegean seashore

The refugees boarded a migrant vessel bound for Europe. AGPS could not identify the details of the trip and the nationalities of the missing migrants.

Turkey is a main crossing point for migrants, including Palestinian refugees, trying to make their way to Europe to escape violent conflicts or economic hardship.

Rights groups have kept record of the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees onboard Europe-bound boats, as they fled war-torn Syria to Turkey, before heading for neighboring Greece and other coastal destinations.



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A deal between Turkey and the European Union in 2016 helped stem migration flows, but many asylum-seekers still attempt the dangerous trip across the Aegean Sea to Greek islands.

In January 2020, German police told a relative of the Palestinian refugee Ahmed Khalil Ibrahim, born in 1974, that the latter drowned at sea.

Ahmed's relative Tareq Abu Omar said the victim was identified by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). His body was in Croatia.

Speaking with AGPS, Tareq Abu Omar said the Croatian authorities found Ahmed's body in Dobra Lake, one day after he drowned. His name and personal details could not be identified at the time.

Ahmed, a former resident of Shabaa town, in Rif Dimashq, disappeared on November 29, 2018 as he tried to cross the Dobra river with four other people in an attempt to reach Slovenia, on way to Italy.

Ahmed fled war-torn Syria to AlBadawi refugee camp, in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, before he decided to seek shelter in a European destination.

Palestinian young men Ibrahim AlDirani, Mohamed Marwan Tamim, Mohamed Dhafer AlNajar, and Mohamed Ahmed Sai'd have also disappeared as they tried to reach Greece via Turkey.



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Palestinian refugee child Hamza Hamid has gone missing after a boat sank off the Aegean coast.

AGPS documented the death of 57 Palestinian refugees from Syria as they tried to cross borders on Europe-bound migrant boats.

Meanwhile, residents of Deir ballout and AlMuhammadiya camps, north of Syria, denounced the medical neglect they have been facing in the area due to the poor healthcare services and absence of specialized medics.

The nearest health center is located at a distance of over ten kilometers from the camp.

The refugees continue to urge the Turkish Authorities and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD) to rehabilitate the local health center and allocate an ambulance to carry patients out of and into the camp.

In another development, UNRWA warned Palestinian refugees against attempts to steal their bank account details by phone or fake social media accounts.

UNRWA said in a circular that anonymous persons and fake accounts claim UNRWA will shell out 300 USD to unemployed persons.

UNRWA added that authentic pieces of information are only published on UNRWA's official website and social media pages.



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Along similar lines, Palestinian medic Hayel Hamid has been forcibly disappeared in Syrian government prisons for the eight-consecutive year. He was kidnapped on August 13, 2012 from his clinic in Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus, on charges of treating wounded persons.

Hayel, born in 1948 in Dalata in occupied Palestine, worked as a professor at the Damascus Faculty of Medicine and assumed duties as head of the General Surgery Division at Al-Assad University Hospital. His condition and whereabouts have been shrouded in mystery.

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

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to grip the Middle East and the world, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to free all Palestinians and Syrians held behind prison bars.

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

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to immediately release Palestinian detainees and provide those who tested positive for COVID-19 with the necessary medical treatment.



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The Syrian authorities and all concerned parties should also take precautionary measures and enhance captivity conditions to rein in a tragic propagation of the virus in jail.