



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



"AGPS: 252 Palestinian Children Killed in War-Torn Syria"

- Sterilization Campaigns Carried Out in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Syria
- Palestinian Women, Her Baby Girl Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Jail for 8th Year
- Greece Halts Freeze on Asylum-Seeking Applications

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Latest Developments

A newly-released report by AGPS has kept record of the death of 252 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria since the outburst of the bloody conflict in 2011 until February 2020.

The data pointed out that 129 children died under shelling; 15 were fatally shot by snipers; 11 were gunned down; two children were tortured to death; 22 drowned at sea; 26 others were killed in car blasts; and 34 died due to the blockade and medical neglect. Another 12 children died of other causes, including burns, suffocation, run-over accidents, and abduction.

Sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their moms' arms in Syrian prisons and whose fates have remained shrouded in mystery.



Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating



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disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.

In another development, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in cooperation with the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), embarked on a campaign to disinfect Palestinian refugee camps in Syria in response to COVID-19 outbreak.

Sterilization drives have seen the day in displacement camps set up in Daraa, Hums, Hama, Latakia, and Aleppo.



Disinfectants have been sprayed across access roads and on public transportation vehicles, UNRWA offices and clinics, GAPAR departments, and other facilities.

Civilians also received detergents and sterilizers as part of preventive measures against coronavirus.

Over recent weeks, Palestinian refugees sheltered across the Syrian territories have kept urging UNRWA to assist them in their fight against the novel coronavirus COVID-19.



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Activists have lashed out at UNRWA and GAPAR over their unresponsiveness regarding the cries for help launched by the Palestinian refugee community in Syria.

The refugees said the sterilization campaigns and precautionary measures carried out by UNRWA and GAPAR do not protect civilians against COVID-19 contaminations.

Recently, AGPS has warned of a projected outbreak of COVID-19 in Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. 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.

In another development, Palestinian refugee Taghrid Eissat and her infant Hadil AlGhayathi have been enduring mysterious fates in Syrian government prisons, where they have been held since 2013.

The mother and her daughter were kidnapped in March 2013 as they passed through the government-run AlAlaaf checkpoint, in al Hajar AlAswad area, adjacent to Yarmouk Camp. Their fate and whereabouts remain mysterious.





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AGPS continues to urge the Syrian authorities to disclose the fate of the two detainees among other Palestinian refugees held behind prison bars.

AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,793 Palestinian refugees, including 110 women and 50 minors, in Syria's state run jails.

Meanwhile, the Greek government has lifted a controversial suspension of asylum applications imposed in response to an influx of refugees crossing the border from Turkey. However, all asylum services will remain frozen for at least a week due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Greek migration minister, Notis Mitarakis, said on Thursday that a 30-day suspension had ended on April 1 and that applications for asylum could be processed with immediate effect.

Athens had put all asylum applications on hold at the beginning of March, after Turkey said migrants could leave for Europe. At least 14,000 migrants in Turkey rushed to the borders with Greece, where many were pushed back with tear gas and rubber bullets.

The EU Home Affairs Commissioner, Ylva Johansson, welcomed Greece's move to end the suspension. "At this time it is important to defend our values and fundamental rights," she said.

The Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced on Sunday, March 1 that Greece was suspending asylum applications until the end of the month.

Article 78(3) of the Treaty of Europe (TFEU) refers to measures to handle asylum in "emergency situations".



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The Greek government's move was widely criticized by the United Nations and human rights organizations for being in breach of European and international law.

85 human rights organizations around the world signed an open letter on March 6 calling on the Greek government to withdraw the Emergency Decree suspending asylum procedures.

Johansson on Thursday announced that the first unaccompanied children would be brought from the Greek island of Lesbos to Luxembourg within the next two weeks. Luxembourg and seven other EU countries, including Germany and France, have said they will take in around 1,500 unaccompanied minors from the overcrowded migrant camps on the Aegean islands.

Despite the lifting of the March 1 suspension, Greek asylum authorities are accepting no new asylum applications for at least another week. The Greek Asylum Service says all administrative services to the public, including registrations, interviews and appeal submissions, are suspended until Friday, April 10 "in order to protect public health and limit the further dissemination of virus Covid-19."

"Applicants' cards and residence permits that are due to expire [before April 10] will remain valid," the latest announcement from the Asylum Service, dated March 13, 2020, says.