



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



"Palestinian Refugee Assassinated in Syria"

- Palestinians from Syria Appeal for Safe Shelter on Greek Island
- Fires Break Out at Palestinian Refugee Home in Daraa Camp
- Palestine Heritage Exhibition Held in Aleppo

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Latest Developments

Palestinian refugee Firas Salim AlMesri was assassinated on Thursday, October 17, by anonymous gunmen in Daraa Camp, south of Syria.

The refugee was killed in a drive-by shooting attack by a masked man boarding a motorcycle, outside of Firas's shop in Daraa Camp. He died right on the spot.

Firas, born in 1982, was the commander of Abnaa AlAqsa battalion, affiliated with the Syrian opposition.



Over recent years, Palestinians taking shelter in Daraa province have expressed deep concern over the security situation in the area after reports have emerged on increasing assassination attempts.

Activists have accused pro-government militias of assassinating opposition affiliates south of Syria in violation of the reconciliation accords struck between the two sides.

AGPS documented the death of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Daraa province, home to nearly 8,500 Palestinian refugees.



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In another development, dozens of Palestinian refugees from Syria and Gaza have rallied on the Greek island of Samos, protesting the slow pace of asylum procedures and delays in the transfer of refugees from the island to Greek mainland after their tents were burned down.

The migrants have railed against the dire living conditions they have been facing on the island, saying the situation has gone worse as a result of the increasing migrant influx, particularly by refugees from Afghanistan.

Last week, a number of migrants were injured and another killed in a clash between asylum-seekers in a refugee camp set on the Greek island of Samos. The violence, apparently between groups of Syrians and Afghans, erupted in a camp pitched in the town of Vathy. A fire later broke out around the camp, resulting in heavy material damage.



"Half of the 6,000 people who are stuck in Vathy camp on Samos are women and children," medical charity MSF said in a tweet. "This nightmare must end! Children and other vulnerable people must be evacuated from the Greek islands to safe accommodation."



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Despite efforts to relocate people to the Greek mainland, there are thousands of migrants and refugees in camps on Aegean islands near Turkey, most of them vastly overcrowded, unhygienic and violence-prone. Scores of asylum-seekers continue to arrive daily.

Dozens of Palestine refugees who fled the relentless Syrian warfare to remote Greek islands have been crammed in refugee camps that have reportedly been running at three times their capacity. Overpopulated refugee camps cause a shortage of resources, not least healthcare.

Last month month, UNICEF warned that the number of unaccompanied migrant minors staying in overcrowded reception centers on the Greek islands exceeds 1,100, the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis in early 2016, calling on European countries to do more to protect vulnerable children.

Tens of thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees have flooded across the Mediterranean and into Greece over the past few years, counting on being relocated elsewhere in Europe as part of an E.U. plan to redistribute the asylum seekers to lighten the burden on the countries at the front lines of Europe's migrant crisis.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been rounded up by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover in such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas in Greece.



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Meanwhile, fires broke out inside a Palestinian refugee home in Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, resulting in heavy material damage.

Reporting from Syria, an AGPS correspondent said the fires were set by a short circuit. Residents showed up at the scene and extinguished the fires. One room was completely burned down. No injuries were reported.



All the way through Syria's eight-year conflict, residents of Daraa Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Syria, have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions owing to the high rates of unemployment and absence of vital facilities. A chronic water blackout has made the situation worse.

In the meantime, the Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Syria and the Arab Palestinian Club in Aleppo opened a showroom for Palestinian heritage under the slogan "An Unforgettable Legacy and Eternal Right".

Over 300 Palestinian historical documents dating back to 1948 and before were put on display.



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Handmade items reflecting Palestinian traditional handicraft and folkloric Palestinian costumes, along with traditional kitchen wares figured in the museum. A Palestinian sword from Tarshiha village dating back to 1822 and belonging to the Said Agha family was also displayed.

Palestinian poet Mahmoud Ali AlSaid was honored at the event. Representatives of local NGOs, student movements, and cultural bodies were in attendance.