



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



"2 Palestinian Refugees Killed in Syrian Gov't Jails"

- General Refugee Authority Urges UNRWA to Provide Emergency Food Assistance for Palestine Refugees
- UNRWA to Secure Treatment Fees for Palestinian Girl from Syria
- Palestinians among 173 Migrants Intercepted by Turkish Coast Guard

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Victims

Palestinian refugees Said Mustafa Amrein and Ziad Lutif Amrein were tortured to death in Syria's state-run prisons, where they had been forcibly disappeared for years. Their families received the death news following their appeals for information.

According to AGPS data, 610 Palestinian refugees were fatally tortured in Syrian government lock-ups, where at least 1,768 others have been secretly held.

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 detainees, 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 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.



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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.

Latest Developments

The General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in Damascus has called on UNRWA to include displaced Palestinian families on lists of most vulnerable persons in Syria.

In a letter to UNRWA's Director of Syria Operations Amany Michael Ebye, GAPAR said Palestinian refugees in Syria continue to grapple with a tragic humanitarian situation due to food insecurity and UNRW's reluctance to provide them with much-needed food aids.

GAPAR called for serious contacts with UNRWA department in the Jordanian capital city of Amman in order to secure the needed donations and put into effect a humanitarian assistance program for 2020.

The Syrian conflict has impacted Palestine refugees inside and outside the Syrian territories. According to UN reports, over 400,000 Palestine refugees remain in Syria, more than half of them are internally displaced, and nearly all require sustained humanitarian assistance.

The situation of thousands of Palestine refugees who fled to Lebanon and to Jordan also remains alarmingly calamitous.



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Meanwhile, UNRWA said it will provide treatment costs for Palestinian child Bayan Taha Khatab, who suffers from congenital cataracts.

The child was reportedly transferred to Intralasik International Center of Ophthalmology in Damascus to carry out medical checks, pending an eye surgery.

Bayan, who grew up in Syria's Khan Dannun refugee camp, in Rif Dimashq, suffers from an eye disease known as the cataract, a type of clouding that affects the eye's natural lenses and may cause vision loss.

Sometime earlier, her family said they have failed to secure the required fees for treatment and surgery and appealed to the concerned bodies to take urgent action in order to allow Bayan to retrieve her normal sight and pursue her studies.

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye which leads to a decrease in vision. Cataracts often develop slowly and can affect one or both eyes. Symptoms may include faded colors, blurry or double vision, halos around light, trouble with bright lights, and



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trouble seeing at night. This may result in trouble driving, reading, or recognizing faces. Poor vision caused by cataracts may also result in an increased risk of falling and depression. Cataracts cause half of all cases of blindness and 33% of visual impairment worldwide.

In the meantime, at least 173 irregular migrants were held in three districts in Turkey's western Izmir province, security sources said Saturday.

According to local security forces, the migrants were spotted in dinghies off the coast of the Aegean Sea by coast guards.

64 migrants, including 58 Afghans and six Syrians, were held off the coast of the Süngükaya Island in Izmir's Çeşme district.

Another 41 were held off the coast of Karaada. Of them, 21 were from Afghanistan, 17 from Syria and another three from Iran.

One more boat with 68 irregular migrants on board was captured by security forces off the coast of the Seferihisar district. The group consisted of 42 Afghans, 23 Syrians, one Palestinian, one Algerian and one Kuwaiti.

The migrants were taken to the provincial migration office.

In 2018, some 268,000 irregular migrants were held in Turkey, according to the Interior Ministry. Turkey has been a key transit point for irregular migrants aiming to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution.