



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



### "Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Escalate Protest Moves over UNRWA Aid Cut"

- Right Group Urges UNRWA to Reconsider Decision to Cut Aid for Palestinians of Syria
- Residents of Khan Eshieh Camp Slam New Spokesperson
- 22 Migrants Rescued off Turkish Coast

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## Latest Developments

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon continue to rally outside of UNRWA offices in Sidon, Tripoli, Central AlBekaa, and Beirut to protest the Agency's decision to reduce cash aid for Palestinian refugee families from Syria (PRS).

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 threatened to escalate protest moves and set up sit-in tents outside of UNRWA offices to pressurize the Agency to cancel the decision and work on their unconditional return to their homes from which they have been displaced by the Israeli occupation since 1948.

Last week, 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.



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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.

Along similar lines, the Palestinian Association for Human Rights (WITNESS) leveled heavy criticism at UNRWA and urged the Agency to backtrack on the new measures which they said would result in further despair for PRS.

In a Monday statement, WITNESS said the new decision issued under the pretext of financial deficit will make the humanitarian situation of PRS families worse in the Lebanese territories, where the local currency has seen a dramatic crash amidst an unprecedented price leap and turbulent socio-economic situation.

WITNESS said the majority of Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria are granted temporary visas of six months in Lebanon and are, therefore, denied access to the local labor market. Most of these families are also sheltered at rented houses or in substandard displacement camps.

The human rights group urged UNRWA to cancel the decision, seek further funds to the Agency, and pressurize the international community and donor parties to assume their responsibilities vis-à-vis the Palestinian refugee plight.



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It further called on the Agency to benefit from the influx of fresh money to provide better healthcare services for Palestinian refugees.

In the meantime, residents of Khan Eshieh Camp for Palestinian refugees denounced the crackdowns imposed by the recently-appointed camp spokesman.

Reporting from the area, an AGPS news correspondent said the new spokesman has been ordering civilians to issue new identity documents and heavily interrogating them, forcing civilians to seek help from authorities outside the camp.

The residents said the spokesman has been appointed on political rather than humanitarian grounds.

Palestinian families taking refuge in Khan Eshieh camp have been struggling with squalid humanitarian conditions inflicted by the eleven-year warfare. Palestinian families have been overburdened by the price leap and absence of humanitarian aid.

According to UN data, Khan Eshieh camp lies beside the ancient ruins of Khan Eshieh, 27km south-west of Damascus. The camp historically served as an overnight shelter for trade caravans on the road between Damascus and the southwest, and in 1948, it provided shelter for the first refugees from Palestine. The camp was established in 1949 on an area of 0.69 square kilometers with refugees originally from the northern part of Palestine.





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Before the conflict in Syria, the camp was home to more than 20,000 Palestine refugees. In 2012, the farms and fields surrounding the camp became active battlegrounds in which heavy weapons were deployed, often indiscriminately. The population more than halved to 9,000.

Some of the camp's buildings and infrastructure were severely affected including some UNRWA installations; two UNRWA schools and the community centre were almost razed to the ground. In 2016, UNRWA was able to re-access Khan Esheih and the Agency was able to rehabilitate some of its installations. Residents have also slowly started to return, with the camp now accommodating 12,000 people.

Meanwhile, twenty-two irregular migrants who were drifting in a dinghy off western Izmir province's Menderes district were rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard Command.

According to a statement by the coast guard on Tuesday, the passengers lost control of the drifting dinghy due to an engine problem.

The migrants were referred to provincial migration offices and the suspected human traffickers were arrested.

The tribulations of migrants trying to reach Europe continue, especially with Greece pursuing its violent pushback policies.

Turkey has repeatedly condemned Greece's illegal practice of pushing back asylum-seekers, stating it violates humanitarian



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values and international law by endangering the lives of vulnerable migrants, including women and children.

Turkey's five Aegean provinces – Çanakkale, Balıkesir, İzmir, Muğla and Aydın – are prime spots for refugees seeking to leave Turkey for the European Union, with Greek islands within sight of the Turkish coast.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands have made short but perilous journeys across the Aegean to reach Northern and Western Europe in search of a better life.

Hundreds of people have died at sea as many boats carrying refugees often sink or capsize. The Turkish Coast Guard Command has rescued thousands of others.

Turkey and Greece are key transit points for migrants looking to cross into Europe, fleeing war and persecution to start new lives. Turkey has accused Greece of large-scale pushbacks, summary deportations and denying migrants access to asylum procedures, which is a violation of international law. Ankara also accuses the EU of turning a blind eye to this blatant abuse of human rights.

Pushbacks are considered contrary to international refugee protection agreements that say people should not be expelled or returned to a country where their life or safety might be in danger due to their race, religion, nationality or membership of a social or political group.