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Action Group For Palestinians of Syria



التقرير اليومي



الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية
The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

Lebanon to Repatriate 15,000 Refugees to Syria

- Clashes as Greek Authorities Evacuate Athens Refugee Camp
- Scholarships Granted to Palestinian Refugee Students in Tunisia
- Palestinian Refugee Wins 3rd Place in Dubai Championship



Latest Developments

Syrian Minister of Local Administration and Environment Hussein Makhoul held a meeting with visiting Lebanese Minister of the Displaced Issam Charafeddine, during which they touched upon measures taken by Syria to secure a safe and quick home return for the refugees based on a timeline set by both countries, Syrian state news agency SANA reported.

"Lebanon and Syria agree on the necessity to facilitate the return of all refugees to their homeland, not just 15,000 monthly, as stated in the plan presented by the Lebanese side," Makhoul told a joint press conference with the Lebanese minister.

The Syrian government has pledged to secure basic services including transportation, accommodation, medical care, and education for all the Syrian refugees who want to come back, said Makhoul.

He said the Syrian army has restored security and stability to large swathes of territories over the past few years, and the Syrian government has so far enabled the home return of 4 million internally displaced people and 1 million overseas Syrian refugees.

He also called on UN organizations to be "an active partner in the return of the displaced, especially when Syria is open to cooperation with Lebanon and others to facilitate the return of all the displaced, allowing them to have an active role in the reconstruction process."

For his part, Charafeddine said "we discussed our plan in detail with Syrian authorities who expressed readiness to receive all refugees, pledging to provide them with needed facilities," according to Lebanon's National News Agency.

The Lebanese officials intended to visit Syria soon to further coordinate the return of refugees with Syrian authorities, he added.

The Lebanese minister also held a separate meeting with Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Khaled al-Rahmoun, during which al-Rahmoun said the Syrian government allows holders of expired passports to return home and the registration of Syrian children who were born overseas.



Al-Rahmoun added that immigration centers at Syrian borders were all connected with the central database for civil affairs in order to provide the returnees with needed documents upon arriving in the country.

Lebanon is hosting the largest number of refugees per capita, with the government estimating 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 880,000 of whom are registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose representative in Lebanon rejected the country's plan, citing Syria is not safe for returning refugees.

Charafeddine said earlier in August that Lebanon would implement its plan regardless of the UN position as his country suffers from an unprecedented financial crisis and the influx of refugees has weighed heavily on the economy and infrastructure.

Nearly 29,000 displaced Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking shelter in Lebanon.

Over 470,000 refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. About 45 per cent of them live in the country's 12 refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are dire and characterized by overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice.

Palestinians in Lebanon do not enjoy several important rights; for example, they cannot work in many professions and cannot own property (real estate). Because they are not formally citizens of another state, Palestine refugees are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon.

In another development, police and migrants faced off Thursday (18 August) as Greek authorities started evacuating one of the last refugee camps in Athens, officials said, with videos showing authorities using tear gas and a flash grenade.

The attempted eviction of the Eleonas camp, which hosts around 670 refugees and migrants, started at around 5:00 am local time.

Police were seen removing barricades residents had built around the gates of the camp in anticipation of the clearance operation.

Migrants and activists clashed with riot police, who used tear gas and a flash grenade to push back protestors, according to videos posted by activists at the scene.



Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said on Twitter Thursday that the government was “proceeding with the closure of the Eleonas camp” as part of an upgrade of the area and with places available in other areas.

“Unfortunately, a small group of migrants and solidarity groups are trying to disrupt the move,” Mitarachi said.

Many of the residents are reluctant to leave Eleonas, near central Athens, since it has relatively good living conditions and residents can freely come and go, unlike in other camps.

Authorities on Thursday said they managed to remove only a couple of dozen people, mostly to the last remaining camp in Athens in the outskirts of the city.

An official at the migration ministry told AFP that all the migrants who were transferred had consented, and that the evacuation process from Eleonas will be completed by the end of the year.

Eleonas was the first camp to open in mainland Greece in August 2015.

Incidents of racist violence have been increasingly reported among Palestinian refugees and other asylum seekers in Greece.

Recently, a number of Palestinian refugees said they were heavily beaten by Greek coast guards after they crossed the Evros River, on the Greek-Turkish borders.

Testimonies by the Consolidated Rescue Group confirmed that migrants were subjected to money and property theft by the Greek coast guards.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education and Higher Education of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Damascus announced the launch of registration procedures for scholarships for PhD studies in Tunisia.

Palestinian refugee students in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan should apply on the PLO’s official website www.mohe.pna.ps

Palestinian refugee students in Syria wishing to apply for the scholarship should hand over the required documents to the Education Directorate in Damascus by October 02, 2022.



In the meantime, Palestinian refugee from Syria Shadi AlFar won the third place in Dibba International Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

280 participants took part in the contest, held by Dibba body building center at the Meydan Hotel in Dubai.

Shadi fled Syria's Yarmouk refugee camp in 2012 to AlZahira, in Damascus, before he headed for Jordan, where he had stayed for a couple of years. He then travelled to the UAE and took part in international muscle shows.