



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

28-12-2021

No. 3452

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"8 Palestinians from Syria Pronounced Dead as Boat Capsizes off Greece"

- Palestinian Families Appeal for Int'l Legal Action against Migrant Smugglers
- PLO Denounce UNRWA Decision to Cut Cash Aid
- AlRaml Camp in Latakia Left without Power for 5th Day

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Latest Developments

Eight Palestinian refugees from Syria have drowned off a Greek coast as their boat capsized last Friday.

The victims are Rawand Mohamed AlAyedi, from Yarmouk Camp; Dentist Mohamed Kamel Ajaj, 38, a resident of Damascus; Ahmad Yousef Mohamed, born in 1965 and raised in Jaramana Camp; Abdul Karim Ismail; Alaa Abdul Karim Ismail, from AlSayeda Zeinab Camp in Rif Dimashq; Hayan Sawan, from Ruk Andeen in Damascus; Mohamed Abdul Razak Diab, from Jaramana Camp; Anas AlMisawi, from Deraa Camp.

At least 16 people have died after their boat overturned off the Greek island of Paros in the central Aegean Sea in the third maritime disaster involving migrants last week.

Between 21 and 25 December 2021, the Alarm Phone has been alerted to three deadly shipwrecks in the Aegean. At the same time the Hellenic Coast Guard continues its violent pushback regime.

In the evening of 21 December 2021, the Alarm Phone was informed about a boat in distress in the Aegean Sea (AP914). A relative said that there were around 60 people on board, that water was entering the boat and that the boat was sinking. According to information received by the Hellenic Coast Guard, 13 people were rescued, one of them after surviving 24 hours in the water.



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A day later, on the early evening of 23 December, relatives informed the Alarm Phone about a group of people stranded on a small rocky islet near the Greek island Antikythera (AP925). At the time, media had already reported at least four dead passengers. Between 90 people were stuck on the islet and had to spend the night there.

On 24 December, the Hellenic Coast Guard confirmed that 90 people were rescued off the islet – according to information at that time, 11 dead bodies were found. In a video of the rescue operation, one could see the rest of the sunken vessel. Equally visible on the video were orange life rafts to transport people from the islet to the vessel of the Hellenic Coast Guard. The same life rafts are usually used in brutal pushback operations that leave people adrift at sea – a practice used by the very same Hellenic Coast Guard. Up until now, it is reported that 90 people (among them 52 men, 11 women and 27 children) have been rescued. 11 people lost their lives.

Human rights groups said these deaths could have been prevented by a more immediate reaction of the responsible authorities.

The Alarm Phone said dozens of people have died on the Aegean route despite being close to shores. Such tragedies are the direct result of the violent pushback regime put into practice by the Greek government and in the name of the EU. All three ships that sank were on their way from Turkey to Italy. This very long and dangerous route is increasingly taken by more and more people. They often sail in boats, which they cannot properly steer, and get into serious distress.



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In another development, the Palestine Liberation Organization denounced UNRWA's decision to cancel shelter allowances for Palestinians displaced from Syria to Lebanon and cut food grants.

During a meeting in Beirut, the PLO called on UNRWA to cancel the decision, following claims that the PLO and Palestinian Ambassador Ashraf Dabbour, who lately met with UNRWA's director of Lebanon operations Claudio Cordone, bear responsibility for the new decision.

Over recent weeks, Palestinian refugees and CSOs in Lebanon have rallied outside of UNRWA offices in Tyre and Sidon 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 have urged UNRWA to work on their unconditional return to their homes from which they have been displaced by the Israeli occupation since 1948.



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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.

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.

Meanwhile, power has been cut off in AlRaml Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Latakia, for over five days running as a result of the storm that rocked the city a few days earlier.

Residents of AlRaml Camp in Latakia continue to sound distress signals over the dire conditions they have been made to endure in the area owing to the poor infrastructure, absence of vital services, and price leap.

The residents said their life has been marred by the transportation crisis, frequent power/water outages, and the poor healthcare services.