



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

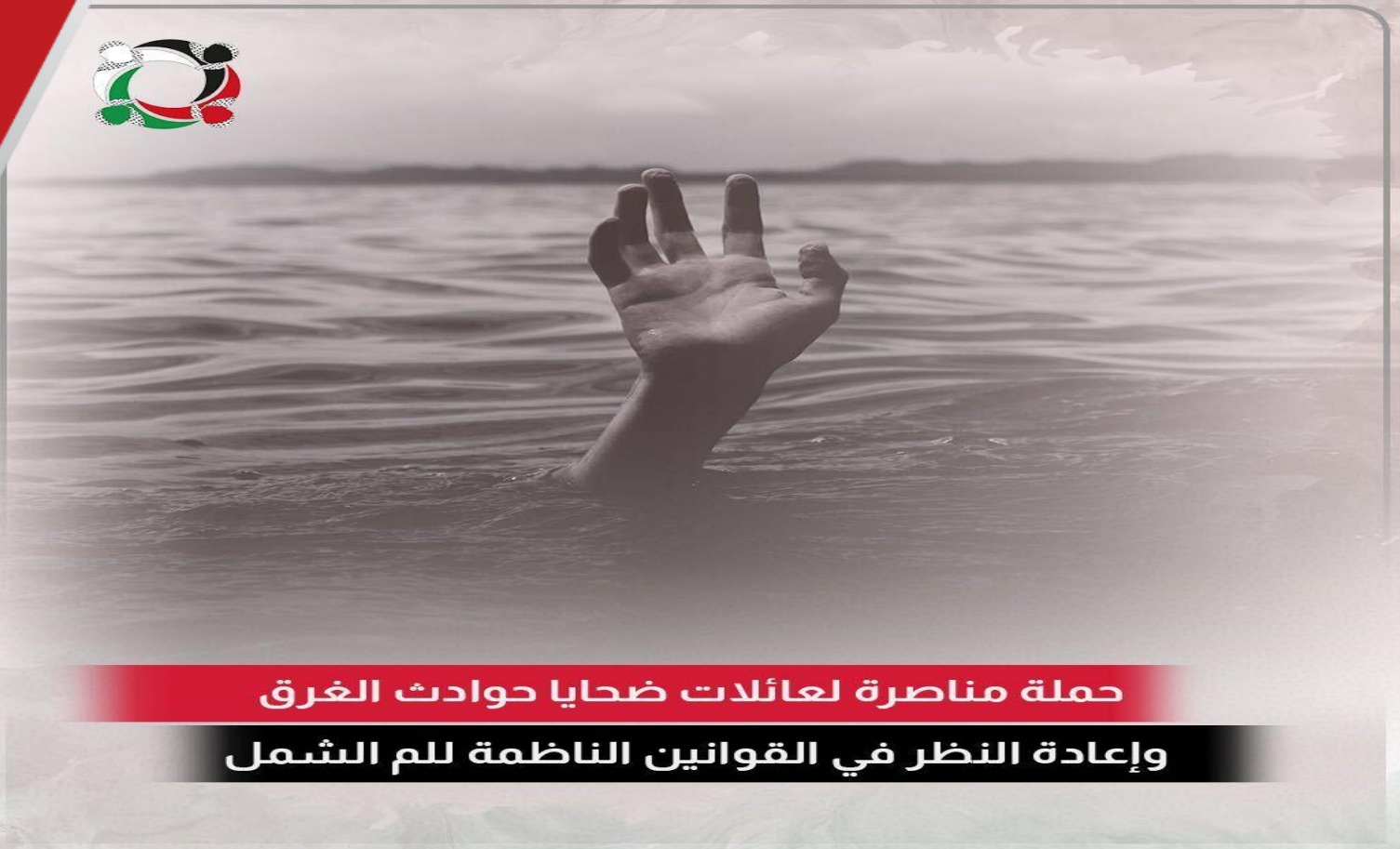
04-01-2022

No. 3459

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



حملة مناصرة لعائلات ضحايا حوادث الغرق
وإعادة النظر في القوانين النازمة للم الشمل

"Following Death of 8 Palestinian Refugees at Sea, AGPS Launches Solidarity Campaign"

- Webinar Underscores Situation of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Jordan, Lebanon, and Gaza
- Four Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Prisons in 2021

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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

Latest Developments

AGPS has launched a campaign in solidarity with the families of the victims of the tragic boat accident which occurred off a Greek coast on Friday, December 24, claiming the lives of 17 migrants, among them eight Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria.

The campaign seeks to pressurize EU Member-States to reconsider migration policies and family reunification laws. Delays in family reunion procedures often lead to tragic consequences as migrants are forced to seek alternative routes to meet their families.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the fact that protection of the family unit is a fundamental human right. Separation of families are of particular concern when they lead to migrant boys and girls being separated from their legal guardians or left unaccompanied. The longer-term separation of families due to migration, in particular when children grow up in a host country without one or both parents, can also have a range of psychological, social and other adverse repercussions.

While EU States have the right to determine the conditions of entry, stay and the status of family members in their territories, EU governments should remember that the importance of family unity and its potential benefits for both migrants and their host communities should form a key part of migration policy considerations in Europe.



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

The EU should urgently reconsider its migration policy and family reunion red tape at embassies, migration departments, and consulates in host countries and to work on protecting the lives of migrants, among them hundreds of children, who are the victims of displacement, poverty, and economic marginalization.

Activists, CSOs, and human rights groups speaking up for the Palestinian refugee plight can support the campaign through the hashtag #RawandAlayedi #VictimsofBoatTragedy #DeathBoats

In another development, a webinar was held by Association 302 for Defense of Refugees Rights to tackle the alarming legal, political, and humanitarian situation of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Jordan, Lebanon, and Gaza.

In attendance was AGPS media chief Fayez Abu Eid, among other journalists and human rights activists.

Speaking at the webinar, researcher Rahaf Hneidaq said some 260 PRS families in the blockaded Gaza Strip have been grappling with an abject humanitarian situation due to UNRWA aid cuts and the suspension of shelter grants since 2018.

Hneidaq said PRS families are overburdened by the heavy costs of university studies as only primary and preparatory school students are granted free education. The fact that PRS find difficulties obtaining passports and identity documents has made the legal situation far more alarming.



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

Tackling the situation of PRS in Jordan, researcher Ibrahim AlAli said some 17,000 Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to Jordan have been suffering hard times.

The Jordanian authorities issued a decision banning the entry of Palestinian refugees from conflict-zones such as Syria. The Jordanian Interior Ministry also outlawed cash assistance to PRS over claims that Jordan refuses the “alternative homeland” plan for Palestinian refugees

The refugees’ vulnerable legal status has reduced their access to the local labour market and increased the risk of refoulement. Several Palestinians who fled Syria for fear of being killed under shelling and the blockade have been shorn of their right to legal stays, health care, and access to education, among other services.

As for the situation of PRS in Lebanon, researcher Ali Huweidi said some 27,000 PRS who remained in Lebanon are “crashed”. The situation has been exacerbated by the latest decision by UNRWA to suspend the 100\$ shelter grant for PRS and provide them only with 25\$ per month.

Huweidi said PRS in Lebanon are subjected to dire socio-economic conditions and a precarious legal status as the Lebanese authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for legal visas and access to the local labor market.

Palestine refugees in Lebanon, including those who fled from Syria, need financial assistance to buy food and other basic necessities. But with the current financial crisis, most Palestine



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

refugees have found themselves slipping further into destitution. The “dollar crisis” in Lebanon, where the official exchange rate of the US dollar against the Lebanese pound is nearly ten times lower than the black-market rate, has seen the purchasing power of the refugees slashed tenfold.

The webinar chairperson Nabil AlSahli said AGPS is the only watchdog documenting PRS situation, including the number of victims and detainees, since the outbreak of the conflict in 2012.

In the meantime, four Palestinian refugees died under torture in Syrian prisons in 2021, bringing the number of torture victims among Palestinian refugees in the war-torn country to 653, among them women and minors.

The victims are Majed AlMadani, Mahmoud Kadoura, Mohamed Ibrahim Kamal, and another Palestinian refugee whose name has been kept secret under security concerns. The latter’s identity documents and personal belongings were handed over to his family on March 1.

AGPS has documented the secret detention of over 1,790 Palestinian refugees, including women and minors, in Syrian government lock-ups.

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.



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

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 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.